

HF-120  
November 6, 1979

Office Memorandum

To: Chief of Interpretation Paul R. Lee, II

From: Historian Charles W. Snell

Subject: Final drafts of Historical Structure Reports for Bldgs.  
No. 38 and 40.

Enclosed for your information (under separate covers) are ~~of~~ unofficial copies of the final drafts of the Historical data sections of the Historic Structure Reports for Bldgs. No. 38 and 40. Official copies for formal review will be circulated at some later date.

Please let me know when you receive the 37 microfilm reels of the <sup>i</sup>Spirit of Jefferson, 1865-1955. I may be able to get some reading going on that project. With best regards,

Charles Snell

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

The Edward Tearney Buildings-

Bldgs. No. 38 and 39 on Wager Lot No. 50,

Historical Data

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park,  
West Virginia

Prepared by

Charles W. Snell

[ ~~50~~ pp,  
8 photos,  
6 maps ]

DENVER SERVICE CENTER  
NATIONAL CAPITAL TEAM  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DENVER, COLORADO

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PREFACE

HF 129 { The purpose of this report is to update "The Historic Structure Report: Part I [and II] Historical Data Section for Buildings No. 38 and 39, The Tearney Buildings, Harpers Ferry National Monument, West Virginia," prepared by Charles W. Snell and dated June 24, 1958, by tracing the history of these structures from 1865 to 1953 and by also revising the original study on the basis of the additional historical, archeological, and architectural evidence that has been discovered since 1958. The work is funded under Account No. 0529-402.

A number of people have greatly facilitated the preparation of this study. Superintendent <sup>Don</sup> John Campbell and Chief of Interpretation Paul R. Lee, II, of Harpers Ferry National Historic Park were most helpful. Architect Archie W. Franzen and Librarian Hilda E. Staubs of the Park staff provided the writer with much useful information and assistance. I am also indebted to Architects Tony Donald and Susan <sup>Long</sup> Shuflet and to Archeologist Scott L. Carpenter, all of the Denver Service Center National Capital Team, for information, copies of building plans, and help on the architectural and archeological phases of the history of Buildings No. 38 and 39.

Charles W. Snell

Washington, D.C.

October 31, 1979

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## II. HISTORICAL DATA

### A. Significance:

The Edward Tearney Buildings, Bldg. No. 38, and its outbuilding, Bldg. No. 39, are typical examples of a mid-19th century of mercantile and residential structure of the Third Order of Significance. Built in 1844 as a duplex mercantile and residential building, this 2½ story brick structure (Bldg. No. 38) has formed an important part of the historic scene in the lower town of Harpers Ferry from 1844 to date.

As constructed by Edward Tearney, Peter Lytle, and Patrick Kelly in 1844, Bldg. No. 38, fronted 40 feet 2 inches on the north side of Shenandoah Street, <sup>was</sup> 30 feet 2 inches deep, <sup>and</sup> contained rooms for two stores on the first floor and two residences, <sup>of six rooms each</sup> on the upper one and one-half stories. The building was used for its intended purposes from 1844 to 1953, sometimes containing two and other <sup>one</sup> times only store on the first floor. The second and third floors, however, were utilized at duplex residences during the entire period.

Mid-19th century business <sup>as</sup> located in Bldg. No. 38 included tobacco shops, <sup>and</sup> grocery and liquor stores, dry goods stores. In the late 19th century butcher shops and restaurants were located in the structure and during the 1930's and 1940's, a large pool room occupied the first floor.

During the period of greatest historical significance <sup>at</sup> Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, from 1859 to 1865, Michael Tearney operated a Grocery store on the first floor and resided with his family in one of the duplexes above. The other duplex was rented by the merchant Bernard Hirsh and family, who ran a business located on the first floor of adjacent Bldg. No. 40. Bldg. No. 38 and 39 were <sup>who became the sole owner</sup> owned by Edward Tearney, probably ~~from~~ 1853 and certainly from February 6, 1860, to his death in 1902 and by his heirs to 1925.

B. Chain Of Title for Wager Lot No. 50 in the Wager Six Acre Reservation, 1751 to 1953:

The land that was to include the future sites of the Lower Town at Harpers Ferry, Wager Lot No. 50, and the U.S. Armory, was acquired by Robert Harper, a mill-wright from Pennsylvania, on April 25, 1751, in a deed for 125 acres, from Lord Thomas Fairfax.<sup>1</sup>

Robert Harper died at Harpers Ferry in October, 1782, and bequeathed this 125 acre estate to his niece, Sarah Harper, the daughter of his brother Joseph Harper and the wife of John Wager, Senior, of Philadelphia.<sup>2</sup>

On June 15, 1796, with the exception of six acres retained in the "Six Acre Reservation" and an additional three-quarters of an acre situated in the "Ferry Lot", John Wager, Sr. sold the balance of the estate, about 118 1/4 acres to the United States Government for \$ 7,016.66 to be used for the purpose of establishing a National Armory at Harpers Ferry to manufacture arms.<sup>3</sup>

Wager's inholdings in this sea of Federally owned land were located in the lower town of Harpers Ferry and ~~thus~~ gave him a monopoly of all the possible sites for mercantile and commerical development in the growing town. John Wager, Sr. died on September 21, 1803 in Philadelphia, just as arms production <sup>got</sup> underway at the new U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry.

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1. Fairfax Deed to Robert Harper, April 25, 1751, Northern Neck Grants, Book 6, p.496, for 125 acres, in Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
  2. Last Will of Robert Harper of Berkeley County, Va., dated 26 September, 1782. Office of the Judge Advocate General, Military Reservation Division, Reservation File, West Virginia, Box 41, Harpers Ferry(ms). National Archives Record Group 153. Deed probated in Berkeley County, Va., Oct. 15, 1782.
  3. Copy of Warranty Deed, John Wager, Sr. et ux, Berkeley County, Va., to the United States, June 15, 1796. National Archives, R.G., 121, Public Service Building, Harpers Ferry Laminated Material (MS).



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John Wager, Jr., who inherited the two reserved tracts, was the first of the family to take up residence in Harpers Ferry, where he settled in 1803. On his death on October 22, 1813, the Six Acre Reservation and the Ferry Lot passed under his will in undivided ownership to his widow, Catherine Wager (died 1829), and to their four minor children: James Bates Wager, John William Stein Wager (who died March 22, 1823), Gerard Bond Wager, and Sarah Ann Wager.<sup>4</sup>

The Wager heirs maintained their monopoly of privately owned land in Harpers Ferry from 1796 until 1834, when James Bates Wager suffered a "cash flow" problem and was forced to declare bankruptcy. Accordingly, on April 2, 1835, the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Jefferson County, Virginia, appointed commissioners "to lay off and divide into three equal lots and parcels, the real estate at Harper's Ferry which descended to James B. Wager, Gerard B. Wager, and Sally Ann Wager, now Sally Ann Swayne, the wife of Noah H. Swayne, from their father, John Wager [Jr.], deceased."<sup>5</sup>

The Six Acre Reservation and the Ferry Lot, with the buildings and improvements upon them, were thus divided to 56 numbered lots and divided equally among the three surviving heirs. On October 10, 1835, the Court awarded Wager Lot No. 50, which fronted 37 feet 4 inches on the north side of Shenandoah Street to Gerard Bond Wager. This lot was to be the future site of Bldgs. No. 38 and 39.<sup>6</sup>

4. John Wager, Jr.'s Will is in Will Book No. 2 (1813-1816), 92-94, Jefferson County Courthouse, Charles Town, W. Va.

5. Gibson and others vrs J.B. Wager, Decree, in Deed Book 29, pp. 140-141. Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, W. Va. - henceforth all deed books are located at Charles Town, W. Va., unless otherwise specified. James B. Wager was thrown into prison for debt on July 7, 1834.

6. Deed Book 29, 140-141. See 1835 Plat, "The Wager Six Acre Reservation, Drawn by James M. Brown," in Deed Book 29, p. 140, Map No. p. of this report.

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On February 8, 1839, Noah H. and Sarah Ann Swayne, the owners of the adjacent Wager Lot 51 at the corner of Shenandoah Street, exchanged land with Gerard B. Wager and <sup>his wife,</sup> Ellen A. Wager, the owners of Wager Lots No. 50 and 52 (the latter the site of Bldg. No. 37). In this swap, The Wagers gave the Swaynes part of Lot 52 to enlarge the north side of Lot No. 51 and received \$ 100. The Swaynes, in turn, granted the Wagers a small southwestern portion of Lot No. 51 to enlarge Lot No. 50 and in return received \$ 100.00.

With regards to Lot No. 50, the Swaynes ceded to the Wagers:

"so much of Lot Number fifty one(51) in said town of Harper's Ferry as lies between the brick building on said Lot[ 51] the line of adjoining Lot Number fifty (50) running back from the Shenandoah Street to the rear line of said brick building [ that is, a distance of 35 feet north from the street] and the width of said space five feet further and all the estate, right....of them the said Parties of the Second Part[ the Swaynes] to the said portion of said Lot Number Fifty one(51) with its appurtenances unto the said Gerard B. Wager... forever, it is hereby understand & agree that the said Gerard B. Wager shall have the privilege of building against the end wall of said brick building[on Lot 51] without paying for the use of the end wall thereof..." 8

As a result of this trade the original frontage of Lot 50 on Shenandoah Street was increased from 37 feet 4 inches to approximately 40 feet two inches.

On May 1, 1840, Gerard B. Wager sold enlarged Lot No. 50 to William J. Stephens, a merchant, George Mauzy, and 58 other men for \$ 1,500. 9

The men paid \$ 300 in cash and placed the building in trust to secure the balance of \$ 1,200. 10 The sixty men, however, were unable to meet these

9. Deed of B.&S., May 1, 1840, Deed Book 25, 19-20.
10. Deed of Trust, May 1, 1840, Deed Book 24, 324-325.

7. Noah Haynes Swayne(1804-1884) was the U.S. District Attorney for Ohio from 1831 to 1841 and an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1862 to 1881.

8. Deed of Exchange, February 8, 1839, Deed Book 23, 286-287. The brick building had been erected on Lot 51 under a leasehold with the Wager heirs by William and Samuel B. Anderson in 1832. The 2½ story brick structure fronted 43 on Shenandoah Street and was 35 feet deep. It had 14 inch thick brick walls. See Charles W. Snell, " Historic Building Site Survey Report for the 'Noah H. Swayne Lot.' (Wager Lot No. 51), ( Typescript, Harpers Ferry National Monument, July 24, 1958 ) 31 pages.

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payments and Gerard B. Wager repurchased Lot No. 50 at public auction for \$ 1,210 in February 1844.<sup>11</sup>

Wager then subdivided Lot No. 50 and on March 20 and 22 sold the sections to two separate parties for a total of \$ 1,200. The deed for the northeast[ right] half of Lot 50, dated March 20 and to Patrick Kelly for \$ 600, reads in part:

"... a certain lot or parcel of land lying and being at Harper's Ferry..., <sup>UP</sup> on Shenandoah Street, and adjoining the brick store house [pn Wager Lot No. 51] belonging to N.H. Swayne..., now in the possession and occupancy of A. S. Stephens (the said lot herein conveyed, being part of the lot designated on the map or plat of the lands of the heirs of John Wager, decd as No. 50, and so much of the lot designated on said plat as No. 51 as was conveyed to said Wager by a deed bearing date the 8th day of July[ sic-February], from N. H. Swayne and wife...) and the said lot herein conveyed is contained with the metes and bounds following, commencing at a point on Shenandoah Street, the south corner of the foresaid brick house [ on Lot 51], and running in a straight line with the front of said house, up said street twenty feet and thence running back up the hill about 90 feet to an iron bar in the hillside, and thence in a straight line thirteen feet to the western corner of the frame building [situated on Wager Lot No. 52 and part of Bldg. No. 37] now occupied by Alfred Andrews as a kitchen, thence along the North Eastern boundary of said lot No. 50, to a point in said boundary, five feet west of the western corner of the brick building before mention [ located on Lot 51]. thence to the corner of said building and along its gable ending to the beginning..." 12

The deed to Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle, dated March 22, 1844, and for \$ 600, for the southwest (or left) portion of Lot 50 reads in part:

11. Deed of B. & S., February 12, 1844, Deed Book 27, 235-236.
12. Deed of B. & S. March 20, 1844, Deed Book 27, 155; also deed of Trust, March 20, 1844, Deed Book 27, 143-144. Another portion of the deed will be discussed under the section on the construction of Bldg. 38.

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"a certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in Harper's Ferry..., on Shenandoah Street, between the lot of Patrick Kelly and that of William Chambers [who owned Wager Lot no. 49 to the west], and fronting upon said street twenty feet two inches, and running back to the alley (in rear of said lot) which leads to the Catholic Church. The lot herein conveyed being all that lot or parcel of land designated on the map or plat of the lands of John Wager, decd at Harpers Ferry as No. 50 (number fifty) except so much thereof as was conveyed by said Gerard B. Wager & Ellen A. Wager to Patrick Kelly by a deed bearing date the 20th day of March 1844..." 13

Thus in late March 1844 the ownership of Wager Lot No. 50 enlarged passed from the Wager family to three Irishmen, namely Patrick Kelly, Edward Tearney, and Peter Lytle.

A note written in the deed book on the margin of the deed to Kelly states "Original of Kelly's deed delivered to Edward Tearney February 7, 1860", thus indicating that Tearney had acquired ownership of Kelly's northeast (right) half of Lot 50 by early 1860. <sup>14</sup> Peter Lytle, who was apparently a relative <sup>or close friend</sup> of Tearney, later left his half interest in the southwest (left) portion of Lot 50 to Edward Tearney in his will. 15

Edward Tearney was thus the owner of Wager Lot 50 from early 1860 until his death in 1902. Under the terms of his will, which was probated April 2, 1902, he gave to his son Thomas A. Tearney "the double house and store rooms with lots and all the improvements on the same situated on at Harpers Ferry Shenandoah Street and occupied by Thomas Georg [?]." 16

13. Deed of B & S., March 22, 1844, Deed Book 27, 156. Tearney received his deed on Nov. 2, 1844 - having finished his payments for the lot.
14. Deed Book 27, p. 155.
15. Statement made in deed by Tearney heirs in a deed for all of Lot 50 enlarged dated March 11, 1925, Deed Book 125, p. 349.
16. Last Will and Testament of Edward Tearney, dated Jan. 16, 1892, in Will Book C,

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On March 11, 1925, the Tearney heirs sold Lot 50 and Bldgs. No. 38 and 39 to James K. Grubb for \$ 2,500.<sup>17</sup> Five years later, on April 19, 1930, Grubb conveyed the property to Henry C. Vorhees and Mary, his wife.<sup>18</sup> Twenty-two years later, Mary Vorhees sold Lot No. 50 to James Karl Grubb and his wife, Agnes Elizabeth, on December 5, 1952.<sup>19</sup>

On March 13, 1953- James Karl Grubb and his wife Agnes sold "Lot No 50 fronting 40 feet 2 inches on Shenandoah Street and back to the alley leading to the Catholic Church..." to the State of West Virginia.<sup>20</sup> Finally, on December 19, 1953, the State of West Virginia conveyed Lot 50, Bldgs. 38 and 39, <sup>and</sup> much other property to the United States for inclusion in the authorized Harpers Ferry National Monument.<sup>21</sup>

17. Deed Book 125., p.349. Deed of B & S., March 11, 1925.

18. Deed Book 133, p.483- Deed of B & S., April 19, 1930.

19. Deed Book 190, p. 438. Deed of B. & S., Dec. 5, 1952. The deed does not

20. Deed Book 192, p.176. Deed of B & S., March 13, 1953. indicate what the State paid for Lot 50. A survey

21. Deed Book 199, p.41.

of the Harpers Ferry buildings prepared by the National Park Service in 1955, however, indicates that the State may have paid a total of \$ 2,400 for Bldgs 38 and 39.

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C. Early Use and Buildings on Wager Lot 50, 1803-1844:

"Plan of the Proposed Junction of the Canal at the Lower Falls of Shenandoah with the Public Canal at Harpers Ferry and the Necessary Locks for descending into the Potomak River. Surveyed & Levelled by N. King and L. Harbaugh, Feb. 1803 for the Public & the Potamak Company" <sup>1</sup> reveals that that the area of Wager Lots No. 50 and 51 in 1803 were apparently occupied by a garden that was probably used to provide vegetables for the use of the Wager family and also the guests of their new frame hotel that stood on the future sites of present Bldgs. No. 11 and 12., Wager Lot 15- subdivisions 1 to 4.

Prior to February 1824, the Wager heirs had constructed a stone stable on Lot 50. This improvement is revealed by the terms of a February 5, 1824 agreement between Catherine Wager, the widow of John Wager, Jr. and guardian of their children, John Bates Wager, her eldest son, and Daniel Weed, a Harpers Ferry <sup>A.</sup> merchant, <sup>merchant,</sup> regarding the use and improvement of Wager Lot No. 49. By the terms of this leasehold, "Weed shall have a lot of ground["ager Lot 49] situated between Dr. Godfrey Weise's shop[on Wager Lot 48] and Jacob R. Thomas's stone stable. [which was located on Wager Lot No. 50]..." <sup>2</sup> Slightly more than a year later, when selling one-half of interest to the leasehold and his new structure, Bldg. No. 40, on Lot 49, Weed described his property as "situated on the street usually known as Shenandoah, Harper's Ferry- between the house formerly occupied by Dr. G. Weise's druggest shop- and the stone stable attached to hotel then in the occupancy of Jacob R. Thomas..." <sup>3</sup>

From 1803 to March 1838, Wager Lot 15, subdivisions 1, 2, and 3, were the site of the large frame "Harpers Ferry Hotel" which the Wagers

1. Office of the Chief of Engineers, Record Group 77, Fortifications file, drawer 150- two sheets, scale 4 perches to one inch. -This has been reproduced as Part of Harper Ferry National Monument Master Plan as Drawing NM-HF-3004. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. Articles of Agreement, Feb. 5, 1824, Deed Book 12, 513.
3. Bill of Sale to Otis Dudley, July 29, 1825, Deed Book 14, 29-30.

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leased out to various tavern keepers during these years. From at least 1824 to 1830 the stable on Lot 50 was thus being leased for use in conjunction with the operation of the hotel. In June 1830, however, Captain Meriwether Thompson, the new leaseholder and proprietor of the Harpers Ferry Hotel, announced in the newspaper: "This well known establishment having lately undergone considerable repairs, to render it more comfortable...<sup>5</sup> also advised,"<sup>4</sup> "here has been a spacious new stone stable added to the premises." This suggests that the hotel gave up its lease to the stable on Lot 50 in 1830.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> 1832, the Wager heirs leased what was to become Wager Lot No. 51, at the corner of Shenandoah and High Streets, to William and Samuel B. Anderson for seven years. Under this agreement the Anderson's were to erect a large 2½ story brick building on Lot 51 and the lease further stated "It is understood and agreed upon that the stable upon the premises [thus indicating that the Andersons were also to have the use of Wager Lot No. 50] hereby demised shall be delivered into the possession of the said Anderson on the first day of April next [1833], the said stable being a part of the property hereby leased..."<sup>5</sup> From 1832 until June 1839, William and Samuel B. Anderson conducted a store in the brick building that they erected upon Lot 51 in 1832. From April 1, 1833 to about June 1839, they also had the use of the stone stable on lot no. 50. With the termination of their lease to Lots 50 and 51, the Anderson moved in September 1839 into present Bldg. No. 11, which they had constructed on Wager Lot No. 15- subdivision 2 into 1838-39.<sup>6</sup> During the period 1840-44, the old stable was apparently converted into a store and rented to Kiram Carney as a grocery store.<sup>7</sup> The general plan of the old stone stable located on Wager Lot 50, as it appeared in 1835, is shown on the map: "Map of Harpers Ferry Shewing the location of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, Drawn by Lieut. White,

4. Virginia Free Press, Charles Town,, Va., June 16, 1830, p. 3, c. 5.
5. Lease, July 6, 1832, Deed Book 18, p.1-2.
6. H arpers Ferry Constitutionalist, Harpers Ferry, Va., Sept. 11, 1839, p.1.
7. Virginia Free Press, February 8, 1844, p.3, c6. States Carney's lease expires on April 1, 1844 and that the rent paid has been \$ 100 per year.

" Allen, and R. S, Smith, U.S. Army, under the direction of James Kearney, Lt. Col. and T. E. Map No. 2. Scale 100 feet to one inch. Approved by President Andrew Jackson, 27th January 1835". 8

During the summer of 1979 the interior of Bldg. 38 was excavated by Archeologist Mia Seidell and about 3/4th of the original stone foundations of the old stone stable were found intact and in place inside Bldg. 38. The southwest or left quarter of the stable, that end which abutted upon adjacent Bldg. 40 on Wager Lot 49, <sup>was</sup> apparently distributed when the National Park Service ran electrical and sewer lines through that portion of the foundations in the late 1950's. The existing evidence, however, indicates that the old stable had interior dimensions of about 13 by 28 feet, or perhaps 17 by 32 feet for exterior dimensions. A gap in the stone foundations in the center of the rear or north wall suggests that the entrance to the stable was located at that point. After the construction of the 2 1/2 story brick building on Wager 51 by the Anderson brothers in 1832, an alley about eight feet wide ran between the the southwest end wall of the Anderson building and the northeast end wall of the stone stable through which the horses could be led into the rear <sup>yard</sup> of the stable. There was probably an <sup>small</sup> area between the rear or north wall of <sup>9</sup> stable and the high cliffs in which the horses could be turned loose.

The old stone stable was demolished by Patrick Kelly, Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle, who purchased the building and Wager Lot <sup>50</sup> in March 1844, in order to construct the extant Bldg. No. 38. Stone from the old stable was probably reused to the new foundations of Bldg. 38, or perhaps even to form the stone walls of the outbuilding, Bldg. No. 39

- 8. National Archives Record Group 77- "Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Fortification Map File, Part of Map, Drawer 150- Sheet 82- 2. This drawing has been reproduced as part of the Harpers Ferry National Monument Master Plan as Drawing No. NM- HF- 3002.
- 9. . . An archeologist report presenting the data collected on the work in Bldg. No. 38 is now in the process of being written. The information presented above is based on an inspection of the site and conversation with Scott L. Carpenter, Archeologist, National Capital Team, Denver Service Center, September 18, 1979.



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D. Construction and Alterations, Bldg. 38, 1844

Provisions in Gerard B. Wager's deeds of March 20 and 22 to Patrick Kelly, Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle provide the essential clues to the original plan of Bldg. No. 38. In his deed to Patrick Kelly for the <sup>northeast</sup> or right half of Wager Lot No. 50, after stating that the property fronted 20 feet on Shenandoah Street, Wager specified: " And it understood and agreed upon between these parties, that an alley four feet wide, two feet to be taken from lot [ that is, two feet from the northeast half and two feet from the southwest half of Lot No. 50] is to be left between the lot herein conveyed and that lying on the Southern western side of it, which alley shall run back[north] sufficiently- far, and shall be so laid out as to afford convenient access from the Shenandoah Street to the rear of each lot and shall be common to both. And it is also understood that the small space of vacant ground lying between the back part of the lot herein conveyed and the alley running up the hill[to the Catholic Church] back of said lot shall also be common to both lots..." <sup>1</sup>

Wager's deed to Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle for the southwest portion of Lot 50, which fronted 20 feet two inches on Shenandoah Street, contained an identical statement and agreement regarding the creation of the central four foot wide alley that was to permit access to the rear of the lot and also the sharing of the vacant land in the rear. <sup>2</sup>

Archeological investigation of the interior of Bldg. 38 by Archeologist Mia Seidell during the summer of 1979 has revealed that the structure was constructed in 1844 in accordance with the Wager plan as a duplex building divided in the center on the first story by a four-foot <sup>wide</sup> alley that ~~extended~~

1. Deed of B. & S., March 20, 1844, Deed Book 27, p.155.
2. Deed of B. & S., March 22, 1844, Deed Book 27, p. 156.

completely through the structure to the rear yard. The dig uncovered the original stone foundations, about 18 inches thick, of the two central alley walls, also the original brick pavement of the alley, and a similar brick pavement of the small level area that was situated between the rear wall of the building and the living rock of the cliffs in the rear. A drain~~s~~ was also built through the central alley to carry off the rain water that poured down from the rear cliffs and roof into the rear yard so as to <sup>conduct</sup> that water <sup>out</sup> to Shenandoah Street in front. 3

As constructed in 1844, Bldg. No. 38 was a two and one-half story brick building that was seven bays wide, and fronted 41 feet 10 inches on Shenandoah Street, and was 30 feet two inches deep. 4 One foot eight inches of the frontage on Shenandoah Street consists of the southwest end wall of the brick building that was erected on Wager Lot 51 by William and Samuel B. Anderson in 1832, and which also serves as the northeast end wall of Bldg. No. 38 to this day. <sup>AS HAS BEEN NOTED,</sup> Gerard B. Wager, in a Deed of Exchange with Noah H. Swayne dated February 8, 1839, had obtained "the privilege of building against the end wall of said brick building [ on Swayne's lot 51] without paying for the use of the end wall thereof..." 5 Patrick Kelly exercised this right in 1844.

4. Historic American Building Survey- Tearney Building - Bldg. No. 38, John E. Donaghey, Del., 12 sheets, sheet 2.

5. Deed of Exchange, Feb. 8, 1839, Deed Book 23, 286-287.

3. An archeological report, is in the process of being prepared. Data based an inspection of site with Archeologist Scott L. Carpenter, September 18, 1979, and also with Architect Tony Donald, both of the Denver Service Center's National Capital Team.

The central alley was flanked on either side by two three-bay wide rooms each approximately 17 feet wide and 26 feet three inches deep, (these are the interior dimensions.) Each of these large rooms was intended for use as a store and was probably divided by means of wood partitions into smaller front and rear rooms. The front central bay of each three-bay wide store contained a door and was flanked by windows that may have been adorned by exterior panelled shutters.

On the interior on the second and third floors, the structure was divided into duplex dwellings by means of a centrally located partition wall. Each residence had six rooms, with three rooms located on each floor. The structure had a wood shingle roof and a chimney at either end. Located in the end walls towards the back of the building, these chimneys had fireplaces that heated first and second, but not third story rooms. The interior plan of the two living quarters have probably not been greatly changed since 1844.

Structural evidence indicates that a two-story wood porch originally extended the full length of the rear elevation and that exterior stairs, probably two sets, provided the only means of original access to the residences on the second floor.

On the Shenandoah Street facade, first and second story windows had six over six lights, and the opening on the first floor were adorned with exterior panelled shutters. The third floor windows, narrow rectangular openings with three lights each, were set at the attic or third floor level of the front elevation. Both the second and third stories had six windows each, while the first story had three doors and four windows.<sup>6</sup>

6. This description is based on visual documentary evidence, see Photographs HF-67, HF-377, and HF-35, all drawn or taken in the period November 1862-1873. Only the first floor appears to have been greatly altered after 1844.

At some undetermined date after 1844, but almost certainly before 1865, the original floor plan of the 1st story of Bldg. No. 38 was considerably altered. However, as these changes could have only been effected after the duplex building has passed under a single ownership, it seems probable that these revisions were made by Edward Tearney after he acquired title to Patrick Kelly's northeast, or right, half of the building on February 7, 1860. Harpers Ferry Photograph HF-35, taken in the period 1862-1863 very strongly suggests that Tearney made these changes in 1860, prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. 8

In this revision of the original floor plan, the doorway of the central alleyway was walled up and made over into a window. The walls enclosing the central alleyway, except for their stone foundations were removed. Tearney recreated the alleyway by converting what had been a window in the 7th, or extreme left bay of the facade, adjacent to Bldg. No. 40, into a doorway and building a five and one-half foot-wide passageway through the structure to the rear court between the southwest end wall of Bldg 38 and an new brick inner wall to enclose the alley. With this alteration Tearney made available an large room 34 feet 5 1/2 inches long by 26 feet three inches deep that was entered from Sehandoah Street by doors located in the 6th and 2nd bays. This large store room could also be subdivided into two separate stores by means of light partition wall. a central

Thus Photo HF-35, made ca. 1862-63, suggests that C.L. Myers was using the northeast or right half of Bldg. 38, 1st floor, as his Hat and Caps shop, while the left-first floor portion may have

- 7. As has been noted, a notation on Patrick Kelly's deed of March 20, 1844 indicates that the original of Kelly's deed was delivered to Edward Tearney on Feb. 7, 1860-thus indicating that Tearney had purchased the property from Kelly and paid off Kelly's deed of trust. Deed Book 27, p.155.
- 8. From June 1861 to February 1862 Harpers Ferry was a no-man's land and no merchant in his right mind would have made improvements in his Harpers Ferry buildings during this period or until the end of the uncertain war.

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served as a dwelling."The Sanborn-Perris Map of Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia, November 1894," indicates that the first floor of Bldg. No. 38 was still divided into two sections: The northeast or right half was occupied as a meat or butcher shop and the southwest or left portion is labelled as a "dwelling.

The Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry, W. Va., dated Sept. 1907, reveals that the first floor of Bldg 38 was still divided into two separate sections, with the northeast or right portion being used as a restaurant and the southwest half as a dwelling.

The sheets prepared by Henry C. Edwards and John T. Willett to explain the Architectural Base Map of Harpers Ferry, Drawing No. NM- HF - 3055, five sheets, dated 1955, describes Bldg. No. 38 as "Store & Apt. above. Condition September 1955, Relatively good; some flood damage and neglect." By the date the National Park Service received Bldg. 38, the first floor was apparently one large room and had last been used as a pool room. Bldg. No. 39 was described as "Ruins - Remarks. Building is ruined shell in rear of Building 38, Original form and purposes unknown."

No documentary evidence has been found relating to Bldg. No. 39, which served as an outbuilding to Bldg. No. 38. From its location on the southwest or left rear half of Lot 50, which was owned by Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle, 1844-1860, it must have been built by these men. From its <sup>possible</sup> location on "the small space of vacant ground<sup>d</sup> lying between the back part of the lot herein conveyed and the alley running up the hill, back of said lot shall also be common to both", it is also possible that Bldg. No. 39 was not built until Edward Tearney received title to the northeast half of Lot 50 on February 7, 1860.

9. Quoted from Gerard B. Wager's Deeds of B & S., March 20 and 22, 1844 to Kelly. Tearney and Lytle, Deed Book 27, 155-156.

Bldg. No. 39, a small two-story gable-roofed stone structure, was about 16 feet square. It may have served as a warehouse for the stores on the first floor of Bldg. 38, or perhaps as a kitchen and smokehouse for the set of living quarters of the second and third floors of the southwest half of Bldg. No. 38.

E. Uses of Bldg. No. 38, 1844 to 1865

From the evidence presented thus far, it is clear that Bldg. 38 was designed and erected in 1844 for use as a duplex mercantile and residential structure. Two stores were to be located on the first floor and two sets of six room quarters were to occupy the 2nd and third floors. The physical and documentary evidence indicates that Bldg. No. 38 was used, <sup>intended</sup> for these two purposes from 1844 to 1953. The deviation <sup>only</sup> occurred, <sup>were</sup> on the first floor, were there <sup>at some times</sup> two, and <sup>at other</sup> times only one store functioning. The evidence suggests that the <sup>shop</sup> on the northeast or right hand portion of Lot 50 was consistently used as a store from 1844 to 1953, and that the southwest or left portion was occasionally utilized as a dwelling.

From 1844 to about 1900 the north side of Shenandoah Street, running west from its intersection with High Street, was lined with six buildings situated on the Wager Six Acre Reservation that contained a total of nine store rooms on their first floors. These were as follows, from east to west:

Lot No.	Bldg. No.	Date Built	No. of stores
51	none	1832	1
50	38	1844	2
49	40	1824	1
48	none	ca.1813	1 (used as a drug store, 1824-1839)
47	43	1845	2
46	44	1845-46	2 (one used as a bakery, 1846-1861)

The owners of these commerical structure either operated a business in the store rooms on their first floors, or they leased them to merchants for that purpose. During the mid-19th century boom years in Harpers Ferry, competition to own or lease such a business stand was intense. As the town went into decline the demand undoubtedly lessened. From 1844 to 1953 these was thus a game of musical mercentile chairs played in Harpers Ferry: merchants, when their leaseholds expired, did their best to obtain better terms, either in their present location, or from landowner of building located in another part of the lower town of Harpers Ferry. Thus while the same merchants might remain in business for a number of years, they quite often conducted it from several different "stands" during this period. By reading through the Virginia Free Press, a weekly newspaper that was published at Charles Town, Va., from 1824 to 1861, when it ceased publication because of the Civil War, it had been possible from the advertisements and other articles in that papers to identify all of the businessmen of Harpers Ferry and the type of goods or services that they sold. In many cases this data has made it possible to identify the exact building in which they were located and also the length of time that they occupied that structure. In other cases the data has made it possible to narrow down the sites where they could have been located to two or three buildings that were located adjacent to each other.

In the study of the businesses that did, or may have, occupied Bldg. No. 38, the southwest( left) store, owned by Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle, is referred to as Store No. 1, and the northeast(right) store, owned by Patrick Kelly to about February 7, 1860), is called Store No. 2. Construction on Bldg. No. 38 probably got underway in April or May 1844 and the structure was completed and the first occupants moved in <sup>October</sup> 1844.

1. Establishing the Identity of the First Businesses:

On October 3, 1844, Joseph W. L. Carty advertised: "Opening Tobacco Business at Harpers Ferry, at the store room of Mr. H. V. Andrews, which

will be kept by Joseph W. L. Carty." On January 30, 1845, Carty provided his customers with additional data on the site of his store, advertising: "TOBACCO - Next door to P. O. Littlejohn's Grocery<sup>Store,</sup> and neary opposite the [Armory] Pay Office." <sup>2</sup> This information indicates that Store No. 1 (west) was occupied by P. O. Littlejohn as a Grocery Store and that Carty was located in Store No. 2 of Bldg. No. 38, and that both were situated just across Shenandoah Street Street from the Armory Pay Master's Office, which stood on Lot 2, U.S. Block B, Shenandoah Street, in front the site where Bldg. No. 36- the Master Armorer's New House, erected in 1857-58, now stands. The location of Littlejohn's store in Store No. 1 is further confirmed by an advertisement of William Chambers, who owned Bldg. No. 40 on Wager Lot No. 49, which stood immediately to the west of Store 1. On June 1846, Mr. Chambers notified the public that he had opened a store in Bldg. No. 40, which was "located on the west side of the well known stand last occupied by P. O. Littlejohn..." <sup>3</sup>

(For location of the Pay Office in relation to Bldg. No. 38 on Lot 50, see the 1835 Railroad map, page 38 ). It may be further noted that the large store in the brick building on Wager Lot No. 51 at the NW corner of Shenandoah and High Street was occupied during the period October 1845 to September 1846 by William N. McCoy, whose "stand" [ was ] located on the Corner of Shenandoah and High Streets". <sup>4</sup>

1. Store No. 1 Use 1844 to 1861

From October or November 1844 to at least November 1845, but gone prior to June 3, 1846 P. O. Littlejohn's Grocery Store. <sup>5</sup>

The next business that can be identified as being located in Store No. 1, Bldg. 38, was the "NEW & CHEAP CLOTHING STORE" of

1. Virginia Free Press, Oct. 3, 1844, p.3, c.6.
2. Ibid., January 30, 1845, p.3 c.4.
3. Ibid., June 4, 1846, p.3, c.3.
4. Ibid., October 9, 1845, p.3, c6; September 10, 1846, p.3, c.1.
5. Ibid., Jan. 30, 1845, p.3, c.4, June 4, 1846, p.3.



ready-made clothing which was operated by R. Walter & Bro. from October 1847 to October 1851, and probably to February 1852.<sup>6</sup>

In 1848 R. Walter explained: "My store may be found adjoining the Store of Mr. Wm. Chambers [ who owned Bldg. No. 40 on Wager Lot 49], nearly opposite the old Pay Office."<sup>7</sup>

The line of businesses that can be placed in Store No. 1 stops in 1852, either because the business men did not advertise or perhaps because the store was converted for use as a dwelling, as suggested in Photograph HF - 35.

2. Store No. 2, Use 1844-1861:

The Tobacco Shop of Joseph W. L. Carty was located in Store No. 2 (east) from October 1844 to April 1845, when he advertised: "Removal- has removed his tobacco shop formerly kept next door to P. O. Littlejohns, to the room lately finished between Mr. Wm. J. Stephen's Tailoring Establishment and Mr. James Walling's Virginia Hotel [both located on Wager Lot No. 5] and opposite the U.S. Hotel [ which was situated on Wager Lots No. 6 and 7 in the Ferry Lot Reservation]."<sup>8</sup>

The next <sup>known</sup> eager entrepreneur to lease Store No. 2 was Jacob Nisewenner, who advertised in December 1845: "Great Bargains At The Baltimore Cheap Cash Store at Harpers-Ferry, On Shenandoah Street,

No. 3, Opposite the U.S. Pay Office."<sup>9</sup> In a later notice he

explained that his store was "located three doors from the corner of High Street, opposite the U.S. Pay Office."<sup>10</sup> As the brick house on

Lot 51 had two doors opening on Shenandoah Street, one for a store and the other to residence located on the upper floors, Nisewenner's store No.2 would have been the third door from the corner. Selling Dry Goods, 6. Virginia Free Press, Oct. 27, 1847, p.3, c.2. April 19, 1849, p.3, c.3; April 11, 1850, p.3, c.2; April 18, 1850, p.3, c.2; Oct. 2, 1851, p. 3, c.2. By March 1852 they had relocated their business to a store that was located on Wager Lot 11 in the Ferry Lot Reservation.

7. Ibid., May 5, 1848.

8. Ibid., April 10, 1845, p.2, c.7.

9. Ibid., Dec. 4, 1845, p.3, c.7.

Groceries, Queensware, Confectionaries, Fruit, Liquors, Wines, Candles, Soap, Jewelry, and Fancy Goods, Nisewenner continued in business at Store No. 2 from December 1845 to September 1847.<sup>11</sup>

Possible occupants of Store No. 2 in 1848 were Solomon Snook and Bushrod Pine, who were running a Dry Goods store on Shenandoah Street in 1848.<sup>12</sup>

From October 1850 to at least February 1852, F. C. Conrad occupied Store No. 2 as a Dry Goods Store, <sup>Selling</sup> Groceries, Hats, Caps, and Bonnets. Conrad did not advertise during this period, but his presence in Store No. 2 during 1851 and 1852 is established by the two following rental notices issued for the brick building on Wager Lot 51 by agents of Noah H. Swayne:

"The store recently occupied by P. O. Littlejohn [who had moved into that room in March 1847], adjoining the store of F. C. Conrad [located in Bldg. 38, Store 2], is offered for rent. Possession given immediately, if desired." <sup>13</sup>

Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson ran an identical rental notice for the Lot 51 building in February 1852, thus indicating that Conrad was still in Store No. 2.<sup>14</sup>

The 1850 census reveals that merchant Fayette C. Conrad was 25 years old, had been born in Virginia, was married to a 20 year old wife, and that they had three children, one girl and two boys. His clerk was James Riley, a 24 year old <sup>15</sup> Virginian.

15. Records of the Bureau of the Census, National Archives Record Group 29.

(Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850, Virginia, Vol. 12, Jefferson County(Part), p. 410.

11. Virginia Free Press, Oct. 1, 1846, 1846, p.3, c.5; October 29, 1846, 29, 1846, p.3, c.2.

12. Ibid., February 8, 1848, p.3. They were in this area but there is not enough information in their notices to locate them precisely.

13. Ibid., January 31, 1851, p.3, c.3- the notice was placed by James A. Beckam, agent. Littlejohn's notice is in Ibid., April 29, 1847, p.3, c.3.

14. Ibid., March 11, 1852, p.3, c.4.

The next business that <sup>may</sup> have occupied Store No. 2 could have been H. Mandelbaum & Co's "CHEAP CLOTHING STORE ", which included ready-made clothing, trunks, valices & carpet-bags. They opened shop in October 1852 and left town when their lease expired on February 1, 1852.<sup>15</sup> As is the case with Store No. 1, Bldg. 38, there are no more advertisements in the newspaper after 1852 that can be identified as beginning issued by businesses that were located in Store No. 2. The census of 1860 suggests a reason for <sup>this</sup> - Bldg. No. 38, Store 2, appears to have been occupied by Michael Tearney as a grocery store , a business that he could have opened as early as 1852 or 1853, but as he never advertised the date cannot be determined. Michael Tearney, born in Maryland, was a 31 year old merchant, whose personal estate was valued at \$ 1,500. Living with Michael was Laura Tearney, also born in Maryland, 38 years old, with real estate valued at \$ 1,200, and personal estate at \$ 200. There were three children, also all born in Maryland: two girls, 12 and 14, and one boy, 10 years old. The clerk in the shop was Leonidas Tearney, 33 years old and born in Maryland.<sup>16</sup>

Also apparently residing in one of the duplexes on the upper floors of Bldg. 38 were Bernard Hirsh and his wife Hatta. He operated the store located next door in Bldg. No. 40. Both had been both in Hepeconthe, <sup>(sic),</sup> he was 28, she 26 years old. The value of Bernard's personal estate was estimated at \$ 1,500.<sup>17</sup>

It is here duly recorded that the list of probable businesses located in Bldg. No. 38, has been revised from that as presented in the 1958

- Historic Structure Report for Buildings No. 38 and 39. These changes are <sup>and 13,</sup> based on evidence found in 1973 in Will Books No. 12, in Jefferson County
- 15. Virginia Free Press, October 21, 1852, p.3, c.5; Dec. 9, 1852, p.3, c.6.
  - 16. National Archives Record Group, Population Schedules of the 8th Census of the United States, 1860, Virginia, Volume 13, Jefferson County(part), p.197.
  - 17. Ibid., p.197.

and 13

County Courthouse, Charles Town, W. Va. Will Books<sup>12</sup> provide a complete accounting of the estate of Martin Grace from 1849 to 1853. Grace built and owned the northeast half Bldg. No. 43 on Wager Lot 47, which included Store No. 2 on the right half of the first story of that duplex structure. The accounting of Grace's estate includes the names of all people who rented the store and rooms in his section of Bldg. No. 43 from 1849 to 1853, thus eliminating all guesswork in that case and also thereby firming up the probable locations of all other merchants in the eight other stores situated along the north side of Shenandoah during those same years.

.F. Uses of Building 38, 1865 to 1953:

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is now in the process of acquiring 37 reels of microfilm of The Spirit of Jefferson, a weekly newspaper published in Charles Town, W. Va., for the years 1865 to 1955. When these are available and the money <sup>is</sup> programed to permit the reading through of 90 years of newspapers, it will be possible to reconstruct most of the history of the game of musical chairs <sup>that was played by the</sup> Harpers Ferry businessmen in regards to business locations during the years 1865 to 1953, when the Lower Town of Harpers Ferry became a part of Harpers Ferry National Monument.

In the meantime, however, the documentary evidence that is available is quite sufficient to show that the first floor of of Bldg. No. 38 continued to be used for mercantile purposes and the upper floors as residences from 1865 to 1953. As has been mentioned, Photograph HF-35, which was probably taken in the <sup>about 1865 - just after</sup> the Civil War, and certainly before 1873, show Store No. 2, the east or right-hand, shop in Bldg. No. 38, as being used by G. L. Myers as a Hat & Cap Shop. The west or left store, Shop No. 1, has no signs and may have been used as a residence. The Sanborn-Perris Insurance Map of Harpers Ferry, dated November 1894, reveals that Store No. 1 was being used as dwelling and Store No. 2 as a "meat" or butcher shop. The butcher's name was apparently Thomas George. The Sanborn Insurance Map, dated September 1907, indicates that Store No. 1 was still serving as a dwelling

1. . Willof Edward Tearney, dated January 16, 1892, Will Book C, p. 42.

and that Store No. 2 was then being utilized as a restaurant. The B. & O. R.R. Company plan of Harpers Ferry, made in 1913, shows that a restaurant<sup>2</sup> still occupied the first floor of Bldg. No. 38 in February of that year.

During the 1940's and early 1950's the first floor of Bldg. No. 38 served<sup>3</sup> as Charles Grubb's Pool Room.

Edward Tearney, who built half of Bldg. 38 in 1844 and owned the property until his death in March 1902, was born of Irish parents in Virginia in February 1818. In the census of 1900, Tearney listed his occupation as "Capitalist."<sup>4</sup> His will, dated January 16, 1892 and probated on April 2, 1902, indeed indicates that he succeeded in amassing considerable real estate and bond holdings during his long business career. His real estate was located in the lower town of Harpers Ferry, on Camp Hill, in Bolivar (where he was residing with an unmarried daughter in 1900), and included a 24 acre farm in Jefferson County, W.Va., and about 480 acres in Jefferson and Leavenworth Counties in Kansas. He also left his heirs \$ 44,300 in county, railroad, and state bonds, and \$ 3,400 (par value) in Harpers Ferry Bank stock.<sup>5</sup>

His real estate holdings in the Lower Town of Harpers Ferry, as listed in his 1892 will, consisted of the following properties:

1. "the brick house and Lot [No. 5, Block D] on Shenandoah Street, known as the [Joseph] Mathews House."<sup>6</sup>

2. "the house and lot bought from the Wager heirs and opposite the Marmion property [ who owned Wager Lots 44 and 45[]", and fronting on High Street. This was either Wager Lot 56 A or 56B, which Tearney purchased from the estate of Geard E. Wager about 1890. Two and three-story brick houses stood on these two lots in 1892.

3. Conversation with Mr. R. Ainsworth of Harpers Ferry NHP Staff, September 18, 1979. Mr. Ainsworth lived in the lower town area of Harpers Ferry during the 1940's and 50's.

4. U.S. Census of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, p. 87., National Archives.

5. Will Book C, pp. 41-43, Jefferson County Courthouse, Charles Town, W.Va. see Appendix I.

6. Heirs of Joseph Mathew to Edward Tearney, for \$ 466.00. Deed of B & S., February 17, 1872, Deed Book 77, p. 169-170. With a 1½ story brick dwelling.

2. "Plan Showing Right of Way, Buildings and Tracks, Harpers Ferry, W. Va., February 19, 1913, B. & O. R.R." Harpers Ferry NM Drawing No. NM-HF-9003.

3. "The brick store house and dwelling and lot on Shenandoah Street in Harpers Ferry, known as the Myers House." This was Bldg. No. 40, located on Wager Lot No. 49, which Edward Tearney had purchased for \$ 800.00 on July 13, 1873 and rebuilt as a three-story store and dwelling.<sup>7</sup>

These three lower town properties Tearney left to Mary Jane Tearney, his eldest daughter.

4. To a son, Thomas A. Tearney, he gave "the double house and storerooms with lots and all the improvements on the same situated in Harpers Ferry and occupied by Thomas George [?]." This structure, of course, was Bldg. No. 38, the duplex store and dwelling structure that had been erected in 1844.

F.

5. To his second daughter, Elizabeth Hurst, he left, among other items, a brick house and two lots located on Washington Street, Camp Hill.

Mrs. Hurst was the wife of J. Garland Hurst, a Harpers Ferry merchant.

6. To a son, George L. Tearney, he left "the brick house and one and one half lot known as the Fuss property on Camp Hill at Harpers Ferry and occupied by William A. Thomas," and other valuables. This would appear to be Lot 12, Block B., Camp Hill, which had been the home of Jeremiah Fuss, master builder for the U.S. Armory, from 1852 to some date after 1871.<sup>8</sup>

Further details of Tearney's will will be found in Appendix No. I.

7. William Richards to Edward Tearney, Deed of B & S., July 13, 1873, Deed Book A, p. 269. Bldg. No. 40 was burned out ruin in 1873.

8. United States to Jeremimah Fuss, Deed of B. & S., dated October 13, 1859, for \$ 400.00. "Deeds from United States, Harpers Ferry, Ordnance Department," (2 vols.) I, p. 471. National Archives Record Group No. 121, Public Buildings Service, Entry X 76. The lot had a one story brick house on it in 1852. Fuss was still living there in 1871- see 1871 Tax Roll for Harpers Ferry.

ADD TO HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT THE EDWARD TEARNEY BUILDINGS,  
BLDGS. NO. 38 and 39, by C.W. Snell, October 1979.

HFR  
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1

WHO WERE PETER LITTLE (OR LYTLE) AND EDWARD TEARNEY?

The evidence examined during the period 1957-60 and again in 1979 failed to turn up any [redacted] on who or what were the occupations of Peter Litle and Edward Tearney in the period prior to the Civil War. An examination of the extensive records of the Second Auditor of the U.S. Treasury Department for the years 1817 to 1851, in [redacted] Record Group No. 217 of the National Archives, Washington, D.C., however, during June 1980 has provided the answer to this question. Both Litle and Tearney were "Master Masons" who became prime contractors for rebuilding many of the Musket Factory and Rifle Factory buildings of cut stone and brick during the years 1842 to 1851.

2

Litle (or Lytle) and Tearney were listed in the Armory Payroll for October 1839 as "Master Masons", receiving the then very high rate of pay of \$ 2.00 per day for their services. They were engaged in constructing the great stone river wall along the Potomac at the Musket Factory. This project had gotten underway in 1837. In addition to work on the river wall, Litle was also performing other masonry work for the Armory. On September 23, 1839, he was thus paid \$ 44.62 for 25½ days mason work on a forebay of one of the Musket Factory shops.

- 3
1. In the deed of purchases of the southwest portion of Wager Lot 50, dated March 22, 1844, Peter Litle's name is spelled Peter Lytle, however, on the Armory payrolls and the vouchers issued to Litle from 1839 to 1849, his name is given as Peter Litle and he signed the vouchers as such.
  2. The Second Auditor's records are comprised of most of the payrolls, rent rolls, and vouchers that were issued by the Paymasters of the U.S. Armory at Harper's Ferry, Va., from 1817 to 1851.
  3. Record Group 217- Second Auditors accounts, [redacted] series- file No. 4246- Pay Roll for October 1839.
  4. Record Group 217- file 3971- voucher No. 66.

4

By 1842 Peter Litle was doing extensive masonry construction for the Armory and was engaged in constructing the first of the series of large new cut-stone and brick workshops that was being erected at the Musket Factory<sup>5</sup> to replace the old shops. He apparently did excellent work, for he was engaged to perform the masonry work on the subsequent workshops that were built. All of the vouchers paying for this work were made out to Litle and Tearney's name is not mentioned. Peter Litle died in 1849, apparently in March, for on March 21, 1849 the last Armory voucher made out to ~~Litle~~ was issued to Edward Tearney, administrator of the Peter Litle, deceased, estate.<sup>6</sup> Tearney not only settled Litle's estate, but he took charge of the masonry work and completed the Litle projects. From 1849-51, Edward Tearney built many of the large new workshops that were going up at the Musket Factory and presumably he continued to perform this type of masonry work for the Armory to 1861.<sup>7</sup>

This evidence suggests that Peter Litle and Edward Tearney, both masons, were close friends and business associates from 1839 to Litle's death in 1849. Litle was probably the senior of the two, for all the vouchers for Armory work, were made out in his name until 1849. As a junior partner, however, Tearney was able to settle Litle's estate in 1849 and to continue the masonry work that he and Litle had been engaged on since 1839.

It thus appears that the two partners, Litle and Tearney, used some of the money they had received for working on the Potomac River wall and used it

<sup>2nd</sup>  
5. R.G. 217- series- files 7045, 7654, 8011.

6. File 9307.

7. see File 11000, voucher No. 31, dated May 25, 1850, when Tearney was paid \$ 3,000.00 for masonry work. The fiscal records of the Armory, 1852-1861, were destroyed by a committee of the National Archives in the 1940s on the grounds that this unique records were "repetitive".



to purchase the southwest (left) half of Wager Lot No.50 for \$ 600.00 on March 22,1844 as an investment.

During the years 1840 to 1849, Peter Litle resided in Armory Dwelling House No.66, a frame one story house that was located between Washington Street and the Musket Factory . His rent was \$ 8.60 per quarter, or \$ 34.40 per year from 1842 to about 1848, when it was raised to \$ 10.00 per quarter. Edward Tearney, on the other hand, did not live in Government dwelling houses during this same period.

2nd Series- File No. 6195-March 31,1841; his rent was \$7.50 per  
8. REcord Group 217- quarter in 1841,rent roll, 1.3rd  
Series File No. 1934- rent roll for Dec.31,1844; 3rd Series File No.  
4967- rent roll for Dec.31,1846. List of Dwelling House Belonging to  
the United States at Harper's Ferry, Va., June 30,1848, Harpers Ferry  
National Historical Park Microfilm Reel 18, Volume 12, p.1186.

G. Summary:

1. Chain of Title, 1751-1953

- 1. April 25 1751 to October 15, 1782- owned by Robert Harper, who acquired title to the land from Lord Thomas Fairfax in 1751.
- 2. October 15, 1782 to October 10, 1835, owned by John Wager Sr. and Jr. and the heirs of John Wager Jr. (1813-35).
- 3. Property of Wager heirs subdivided and Wager Lot No. 50 awarded to Gerard B. Wager on October 10, 1835, who owned land to April 30, 1840. On February 8, 1839, Wager enlarged lot 50 on the northeast (right) side by purchasing a strip of land from Lot 51 that was about two feet eight inches wide and 40 feet deep. He was also given the right to build on the end wall of the 2½ story brick house that then stood on Lot No. 51.
- 4. Gerard B. Wager sells Lot 50-enlarged to 60 men for \$ 1,500 May 1, 1840; they hold property to Feb. 11, 1844. Unable to complete their payments. G. B. Wager repurchased the property at public auction, Feb. 12, 1844 for \$ 1,210.
- 5. Wager sold southwest (left) half of Lot 50 to Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle on March 22, 1844 for \$ 600.  
Wager sold northeast (right) half of Lot 50 to Patrick Kelly for \$ 600 on March 20, 1844.
- 6. By February 7, 1860, Edward Tearney had <sup>a/s o</sup> completed payments for and received the deed for Patrick Kelly's half of Lot No. 50. Peter Lytle left Tearney his interest in the southwest half of Lot 50 in his will. Edward Tearney becomes the sole owner of Lot 50, probably in 1860.
- 7. Edward Tearney, owner of Lot 50, March 22, 1844 to April 2, 1902.
- 8. Thomas A. Tearney, son of Edward Tearney inherits Lot 50 under his father's will, April 2, 1902. He and his heirs owned property to March 11, 1925.

9. James K. Grubb purchased Lot No. 50 and Bldgs. No. 38 and 39 from the Tearney heirs on March 11, 1925 for \$ 2,500 and own<sup>ed</sup> the property until April 19, 1930. <sup>1</sup>
10. Henry C. and Mary Vorhees purchased the property from Grubb on April 19, 1930 and retain<sup>ed</sup> title until December 5, 1952.
11. James K. Grubb purchased Lot No. 50 from Mary Vorhees on December 5, 1952.
12. The State of West Virginia purchased Lot No. 50 and Bldgs. No. 38 and 39 from James K. Grubb on March 13, 1953. [reputed price- \$ 2,400].
13. The State of West Virginia donated Lot 50 and its buildings to the United States Government on December 19, 1953 to form a part of Harpers Ferry National Monument.
2. Early Use of Lot 50., 1803-1844.

By February 1803 a garden apparently occupied the present sites of Wager Lots No. 50 and 51, at the northwest corner of Shenandoah and High Streets. This was probably used to provide vegetables for the guests of the Harpers Ferry Hotel, which was located on the opposite corner and perhaps also for the Wager family, who took up residence in Harpers Ferry in 1803.

Prior to 1824 a one-story stone stable about 32 feet wide and 17 feet deep was constructed by the Wager family on Lot 50. The southwest end wall of the stable abutted on the northeast end wall of Bldg. No. 40 and an eight foot wide alley ran to the back of the lot between the northeast end of the stable and the southwest gable end wall of the brick house that was constructed on Wager Lot No. 51 in 1832 by William and Samuel Anderson. From as early as 1824 to 1830 the Wager family leased the stone stable on Lot 50 to the proprietor who held the leasehold and operated their Harpers Ferry Hotel. From 1832 to 1839, William and Samuel B. Anderson, as part of their lease to Lot 51 and their agreement with the Wagers to construct a large 2½ story

brick house on Lot 51, where also given the lease and use of Lot 50 and its stone stable. During the period 1840-44, the stable was altered for use as a store and in 1843-44, it was leased and utilized by Kiram Carney as a grocery store. The old stone building was demolished by Edward Tearney, Peter Lytle, and Patrick Kelly in 1844 to clear Lot 50 for the construction of Bldg. No. 38.

3. Construction of Bldg. No. 38

Edward Tearney, Peter Lytle, and Patrick Kelly constructed Bldg. No. 38 as a duplex mercantile and residential structure in 1844. Their 2½ story brick building had a gable roof that was covered with wooden shakes. Their edifice fronted 40 feet two inches on Shenandoah Street (or 41 feet 10 inches with the southwest end wall of brick house on Wager Lot No. 51 included) and was 30 feet 2 inches deep. The Shenandoah or front elevation of the house was divided into seven bays and following the terms that were specified by Gerard B. Wager in their deeds, each lot owner donated two feet of his 20-foot-wide half-lot to form a four<sup>foot</sup> wide central alley that was located in the central bay. This alley permitted access to the rear of the lot, where a two-story frame porch extended across the rear elevation. Exterior stairs on the rear porch provided access to the duplex residences, each consisting of six rooms, that were located on the second and third floors of the building.

The first story of Bldg. 38 was thus divided by means of the central alley into two large store rooms, each about 17 feet wide and 26 feet deep on the inside. These were probably subdivided by means of wood partition walls into front and rear rooms.

At some undetermined date, <sup>but</sup> after Tearney had acquired title to all of Lot 50 and Bldg. 38, and perhaps as early as 1860, he closed up the central alley, <sup>making it into a window,</sup> and formed a new alley way 5½ feet wide in the 7th or extreme left hand bay of the first story. This change made possible a more flexible use of the first story: the floor could be used for two stores, separated by a center wood partition wall, or the wall could be removed and the entire first floor could be formed into one large shop.

Bldg. No. 39, a two-story stone structure about 16 by 16 feet in size, is located on the southwest half of Lot 50. This indicates that it was probably built by Edward Tearney and Peter Lytle, but the date of construction is unknown, but was between 1844 and 1865. The structure may have served as a warehouse for store on the southwest half of Lot 50 or perhaps as a kitchen for people who resided above that store. Bldg. No. 39 was in ruins in 1953.

4. Uses of Bldg. No. 38, 1844 to 1953:

The documentary evidence indicates that Bldg. No. 38 was used as duplex residences on the upper floors from 1844 to 1953 and that first floor during this same period was the location of one or two businesses or store, the number varying over the years.

a. Uses. 1844- 1865, (Period of Historical Significance)  
Park

Store No. 1(Southwest)

Store No. 2(Northeast)

1. October 1844 to Nov. 1845

Grocery and Dry Goods Store of P. O. Littljohn ; perhaps here to May 1846.

1. Oct. 1844 to April 1845

Tobacco Shop of Joseph W. L. Carty.

2. Oct. 1847 to October 1851

Ready-Made Clothing Store of R. Walter & Bro., perhaps here to Feb. 1852.

2. Dec. 1845- Sept. 1847

Jacob Nisewenner's Store- Groceries, Liquors, Fancy Goods, etc.

3. 1848-Possible site of

Solomon Snook's and Bushrod Pine's Dry Goods store.

4. October 1850 to Feb. 1852.

Dry Goods store of Fayette C. Conrad.

5. Oct. 1852 to Feb. 1, 1853

Possible site of H. Mandelbaun & Co. Clothing Store.

Businesses occupying store rooms in Bldg. 38 after 1852 were of types that did not advertize. Census records of 1860

indicate that Michael Tearney operated a grocery store in Bldg. 38 in 1860 and had perhaps done so since 1853. This merchant and his family resided in one of the duplexes on the upper floor and the merchant Bernard Hirsh, who ran a store in adjacent Bldg. No. 40, probably lived in the other duplex in Bldg. 38 in 1860.

B. Uses, 1865-1953. (Park's post-historically Significant Period)

This period has not been completely researched but the evidence available indicates that Bldg. No. 38's stores were used for the following purposes

- 1. The Hat and Cap Shop of G. L. Myers, 1865-1873 period, In Store 2. Store 1 may have been part of a residence.

1894- Store 1 used as dwelling. Store No. 2 as a butcher or meat shop. In 1892 the butcher's name was ... probably Thomas George.

- 3. 1907- Store being used as residence and Store No. 2 as a restaurant.

- 4. 1913- Stores 1 and 2 being used as a restaurant.

- 5. <sup>1930's</sup> -50's Stores 1 and 2 used a pool room operated by Charles K. Grubb.

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  - d. Virginia Free Press, Charles Town, Va., a weekly newspaper published under various names, 1824-1861. Available on nine reels of microfilm in Park Library.
  - e. Virginia Free Press, Charles Town, W. Va., 1865 to 1896 . A weekly newspaper- available ( with gaps ) on microfilm at Shepherds College Library, Sherperdstown, W. Va.. Some bound volumes of originals located in the Jefferson County Courthouse, Charles Town, W. Va.
  - f. Spirit of Jefferson, Charles Town, W. Va., 1865 to 1955. A weekly newspaper available on microfilm at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, W.Va. The park is in the process of acquiring copies of the period 1865-1955 from the University on 37 reels of microfilm.
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APPENDIX

Extract from the  
Last Will and Testament of Edward Tearney, dec'd,  
dated January 16, 1892, probated April 2, 1902,

Will Book C, pp. 41-43

Jefferson County Courthouse,  
Charles Town, W. Va.

Last Will and Testament of

Edward Tearney, dec'd.

In the Name of God, Amen,

I, Edw. Tearney of the County of Jefferson, State of West Virginia, being of sound mind and disposing memory and understanding do make and publish the following as and for my last Will and Testament.

After the payment of my debts which I desire to be done as soon after my death as may be, I give and bequeath as follows,

1st. I give to Daughter Mary Jane Tearney in her own right and exclusive benefit the following the brick house and lot on Shenandoah Street in Harpers Ferry, known as the Mathews House, <sup>lot 5 block B</sup> the house and lot bought from Wager heirs and opposite the Marmon property, also the brick store house and dwelling and lot on Shenandoah Street in Harpers Ferry, known as the Myers House, also all the buildings and the ten lots inclosed and around same known as the Homestead in the town of Bolivar.

\$4000x in Virginia State 3% bonds, \$2000x in Jefferson County 5% bonds \$2000x Northern Central Railroad Bonds 6%.

Also all the house hold and kitchen furniture silver and dishes included.

2nd. I give and bequeath to my second daughter Elizabeth Hurst for her own exclusive use and benefit and in her own right the following brick house and two lots on Washington Street Camp Hill in the Town of Harpers Ferry \$3000x 3% Virginia State Bonds, \$1,500x 4% North Carolina State bonds, \$2000x 5% Jeff. County bonds, \$2000x 6% Northern Central Railroad Bonds.

3rd. I give and bequeath to my son Joseph F. Tearney the north east quarter section 20, Township 9, Range 20, 160 acres of land in Jefferson County, State of Kansas, also northeast quarter section 12, township 9, Range 20, 160 acres and adjoining the same northeast quarter section 13, Township 9, range 20, 160 in the County of Leavenworth and State of Kansas under lease to the Tearney boys at \$100 pr year for a term of years.

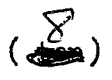
(3 Continued) \$2100x 3% Alexandria City Corporation Bonds 3%, \$2000x<sup>5%</sup> Jefferson County Bonds, \$2000 6% Northern Central Railroad Bonds and his own note for \$500x.

4th. I give and bequeath to my son Edw. M. Tearney \$5000x 3% Virginia State Bonds, \$2000x 5% Jefferson County bonds, \$2000x 6% Northern Central Railroad Bonds, \$1000x 3% Tennessee State Bonds.

5th.. I give and bequeath to my son George L. Tearney the Hagon Property containing about 21 acres of land with all the improvements, also the 3 acre lot adjoining the Alstadt and Murphy Lands in Jefferson County, W. Va., also the brick house and one and one half lot known as the Fuss property on Camp Hill at Harpers Ferry and occupied by Wm. A. Thomas, 34 shares in the First national bank at Charles Town in

- (5 continued.) \$1000x 5% Clarke County bonds, \$2000x 5% Page County bonds.
- 6th. I give and bequeath to my son Thomas A. Tearney the double house and store rooms with lots and all the improvements on the same situated on Shenandoah Street at Harpers Ferry and occupied by Thomas George, also \$3000x 3% Virginia State bonds, \$2700x 3% Tennessee State bonds, \$1000x 5% Clarke County bonds, \$2000x 6% Northern Central railroad Bonds.
- 7th. I appoint George L. Tearney trustee for Mary Monary to invest two thousand dollars out of the assets of my estate in some safe investment and pay her the interest semi-annually during her life, and after her death <sup>to divide and distribute the same</sup> amongst my heirs, share and share alike.
- 8th. It is my will that one thousand dollars be put at interest and the interest to be applied to the intentions of your dear mother and myself, Mary J. Tearney and George L. Tearney, my daughter and son to be trustees of this fund during life and to appoint a successor at there death.
- 9th. It is my desire and positive command that over \$500x must not be expended for a monument to mark the grave of your dear mother and myself.
- 10th. The lots 3 and 4 in Block 70, Leavenworth city under lease to Frederick Milbi and Mrs. Davis I wish to remain under lease for 5 years if my executors thinks it best if not, they can exercise their own best judgement in arrangin, to mke them

Historical  
Photographs



Photograph No. 1

"The Main Street [Shenandoah St.] Harper's Ferry-- Zouaves [Union soldiers] on Mules - Contrabands [blacks] Hauling Guns - Officers Lounging, &c., October 16 [1862], Sketched by our Special Artist, Mr. Edwin Forbes."

From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, November 8, 1862, p. 109.

Harper's Ferry NHP Negative No. HF-67.

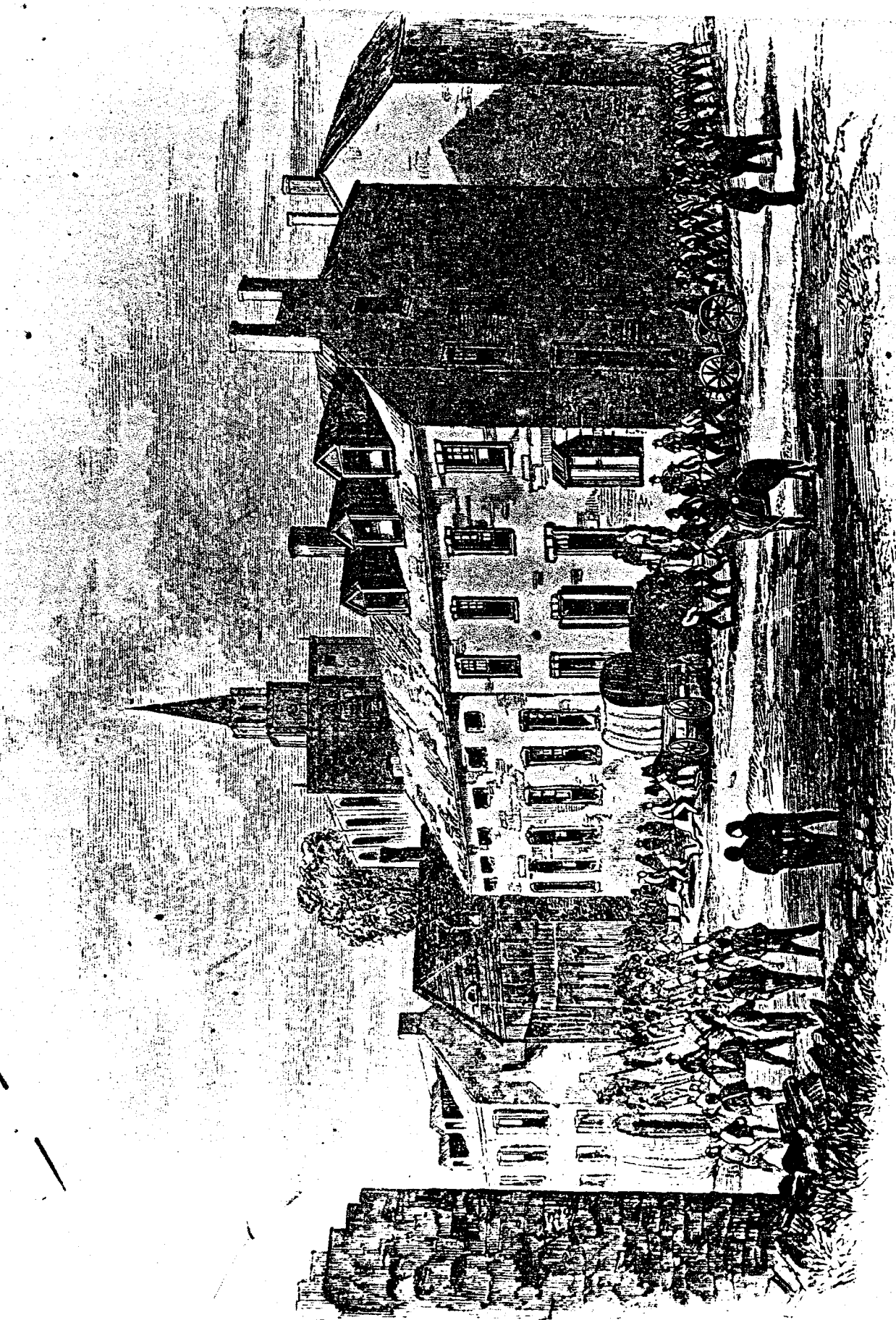
This, the earliest known view of the facades of Bldgs. Nos. 38, 40, and 43,

is not accurate in many of its details yet still manages to convey an overall impression of this section of Shenandoah Street that is generally accurate. Reading from left to right:

Ruined brick wall and corner of burned out Small Arsenal; crossing to the north side of Shenandoah Street, the northeast half of Building No. 43 on Wager Lot 47; the small one and one-half story stone house that was located Wager Lot No. 48; then Wager Lot 49 with Bldg. No. 40; next Bldg. No. 38 on Lot 50, and the 2½ story brick house at the corner of Shenandoah and High Streets is situated on Wager Lot 51. At the extreme right, located on Wager Lot 52 and fronting on High Street, is a portion of Bldg. No. 37.

The house on Lot 48 in not correctly depicted- its gable end walls actually abutted on the end walls of Bldgs. No. 43 and 40. The general character of Bldgs. No. 40, 38, and the corner house on Lot 51, however are correctly portrayed, although not all of the details have been sketched in.

One important use of this print, however, is the dating of subsequent photographs taken of this same scene during the Civil War. Bldg. No. 40 in this October 16, 1862 is intact and photographs therefore must have been taken after this 1862 date. <sup>Civil War</sup>



THE MAIN STREET, HARTZ'S FERRY, VA.—ZOUAVES ON MULES—CONTRABANDS HAULING GUNS—OFFICERS LOUNGING, &c., OCTOBER 16.—SKETCHED BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. EDWIN FLOYD.

submit a wide view can be had of the Virginian scenery. On them situated the signal station communicating with the Federal signal station on Maryland Heights.

AURORA FLOYD.

Photograph No. 2

"Harpers Ferry and Potomac [Railroad] Bridge from Base of  
Maryland Heights [in Maryland] below [east] of the Bridge." 1865

Original Glass Negative at Gettysburg N.M.P. - copied as Harpers  
Ferry NHP Neg. No. HF- 40. This view was taken by the noted photographer  
Brady and was probably made in May or June 1865, based on the state of  
the B. & O. R.R. Company's great iron bridge across the Potomac.

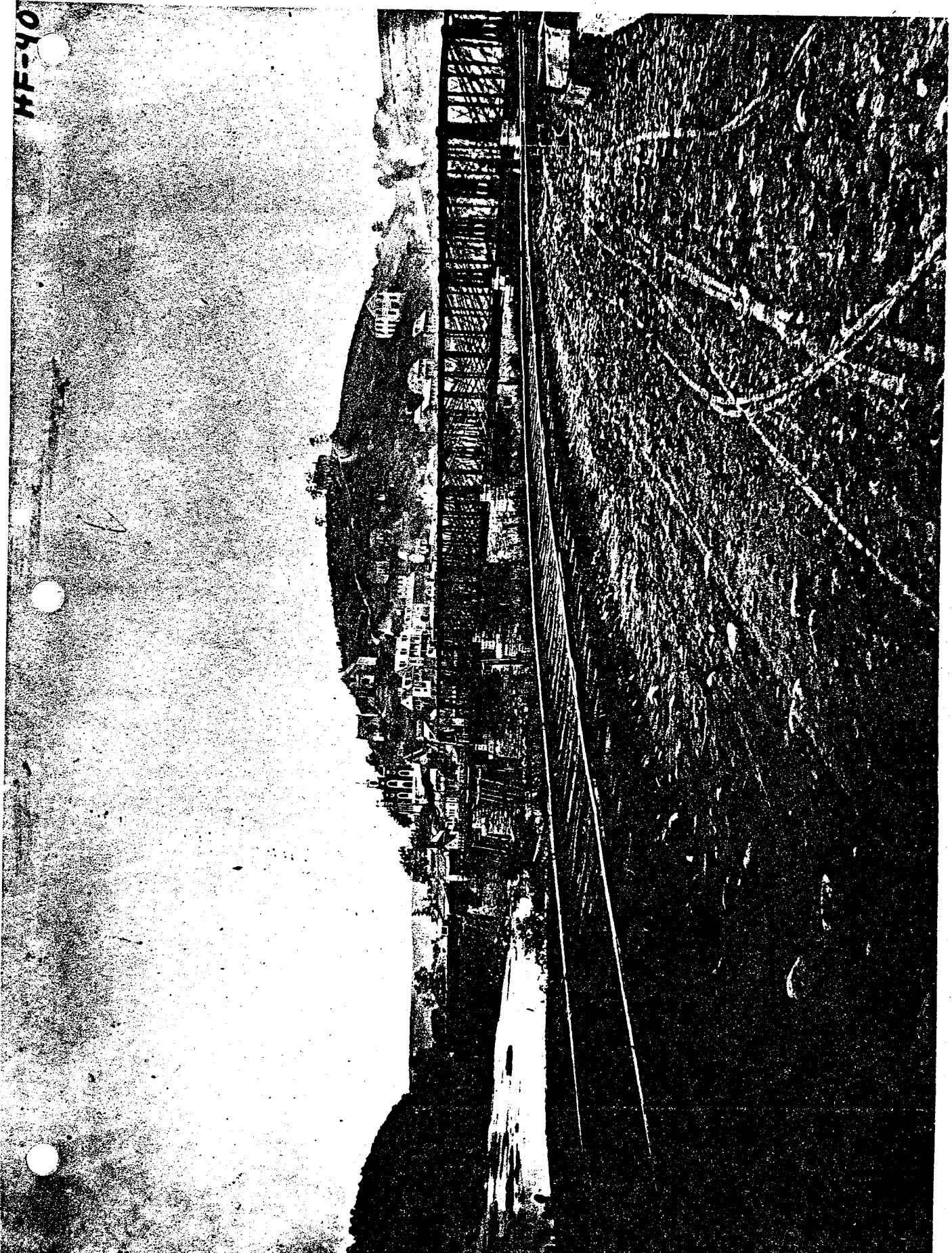
The view reproduced here is an enlargement or blowup of the left-hand portion of  
HF- 40 and is numbered as HFNHP Negative No. HF- 377.

Reading from right to left, beginning at iron span at right: Portion of Burned-out interior of  
Bldg. No. 11, then Bldg. No. 12. Crossing High Street, the High Street end and Shenandoah Street facade  
of the 2½ story brick building on Wager Lot No. 51, next Bldg. No. 38 on Lot 50, then burned out Bldg.  
No. 40, then to the west of Lot 48, the northeast end of Bldg. No. 43. The large brick structure with  
a temporary roof on it, visible in the left-hand corner, is probably the old burned-out Large Arsenal,  
located on Old Arsenal Square and reroofed by the Union Army to serve as a supply warehouse.  
With regards to Bldg. No. 38, at the second floor level on the Shenandoah Street facade there appears  
to a wooden trellis frame work for a porch to afford shelter to the windows of the first  
story shops or shop. Also that portion of the two-story wooden porch on the facade of burned-out  
Bldg. No. 40 appears to have survived that fire. This photograph, HF- 40, together with HF 67, indicates  
that the fire in Bldg. No. 40 took place after October 1862 and prior to June 1865.





MF-40



Photograph No. 3

Shenandoah Street, Harpers Ferry, Va.

1865-1873

Harpers Ferry NHP Negative No. HF-35, made from the original glass negative at Gettysburg NMP.

This view was made after October 1862 and probably after June 1865, because the ruins of the two-story wooden porch that survived the fire that gutted Bldg. 40 and <sup>also</sup> <sup>front</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>are still</sup> visible in Photo HF-40, have been completely removed in this picture. The photograph was also taken prior to July 1873, when Edward Tearney purchased Bldg. No. 40 and added a third story to the old two-story structure.

Reading from right to left. Two bays of the ~~four~~-bay wide 2½ story brick house that stood on Wager Lot No. 51 and was erected by the Anderson brothers in 1832; next, Bldg. 38- note that the northeast or right half of this structure, first floor, is occupied by G. L. Myers as a Hat and Cap Shop. The left half, 1st floor, has panelled exterior shutters at the windows and was perhaps being used as a residence. Note also that doors appear to be located in the 6th and 7th bays at the southwest (left) half of the first story. The alley leading to the rear of Bldg. No. 38 appears to have been moved from its original location in the center bay to the 7th bay by the date of this photo. The next structure to the left is the burned out two-story walls of Bldg. 40, located on Lot No. 49. The high end wall visible at the extreme left is that of Bldg. No. 43, situated on Wager Lot No. 47. The <sup>old</sup> 1½ story <sup>old</sup> stone house that stood on Wager Lot No. 48, between Bldgs. No. 40 and 43, is not visible.



Photograph No. 4

"Harpers Ferry from Loudoun Heights,"  
1892-1896.

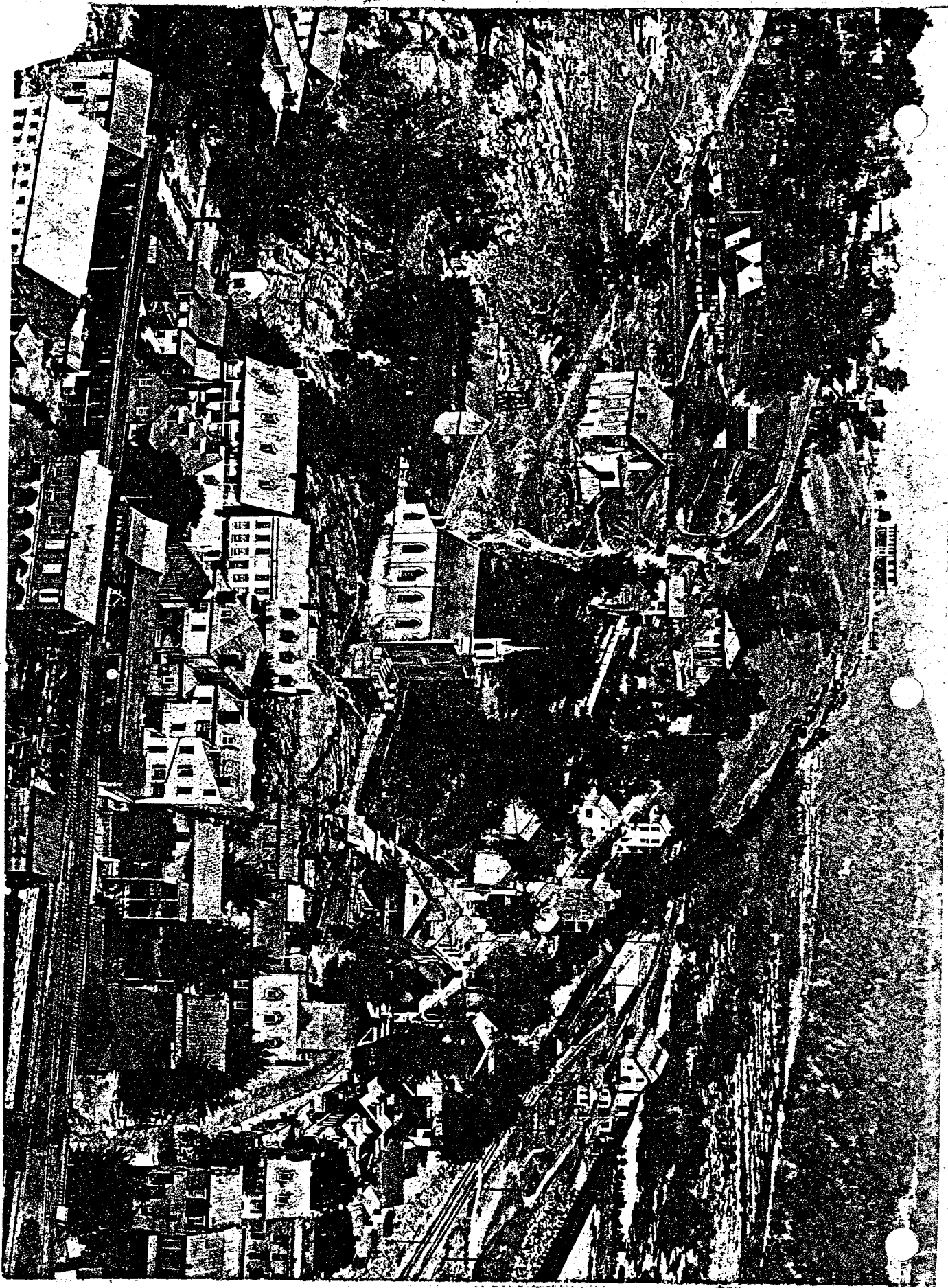
National Geographic File No. 140321-A.

Harpers Ferry NHP Negative No. HF- 99.

This view from Loudoun Height was taken after 1892, when the B. & O. R. R. tracks across the U.S. Armory site were relocated from their original to their present location, and prior 1896, when the Roman Catholic Church building was remodelled.

At the right High Street comes down the hill and intersects Shenandoah Street. Reading from that junction from right to left. North side of Shenandiah Street, on Wager Lot 51 at corner, 2½ story brick building erected by <sup>the</sup> Andersons in 1832, next Bldg. No. 38, roof of Bldg. no. 39 in rear of 38, then Bldg. No. 40, with a third story added to the original two. The gap is Wager Lot No. 48 with no building visible, then Bldg. No. 43 on Wager Lot 47, Bldg. No. 44 on Wager Lot 46, and Bldg. 45. Crossing to the south side of Shenandoah, there are a group of houses on U.S. Block C, Shenandoah Street. In the lower left hand corner, standing on Block C, Lot 11 and fronting on the Shenandoah River, can be seen the large stone "Jefferson Brewing Company" Building. Moving to the right and crossing Market Street, the long two-story brick structure with arches on the first story is the town market house which was erected in 1846-47. Moving north to the south side of Shenandoah Street, are the rear elevations of Bldg. No. 33, at the corner of Market and Shenandoah Street, then Bldg.s No. 34, 35 and 36. On the southwest corner of Shenandoah and High Streets is Bldg. No. 26, then Nos. 23 and 24. On the north side of Shenandoah Street, opposite the last two names structures, are Bldg. No. 12 at the corner and rebuilt Bldg. No. 11, with a fourth added to the old 3½ story structure.

Bldgs. No. 23, 24, and 25 were all erected after 1879 and stand on former U.S. Armory property and the Arsenal tract.



Photograph No. 5

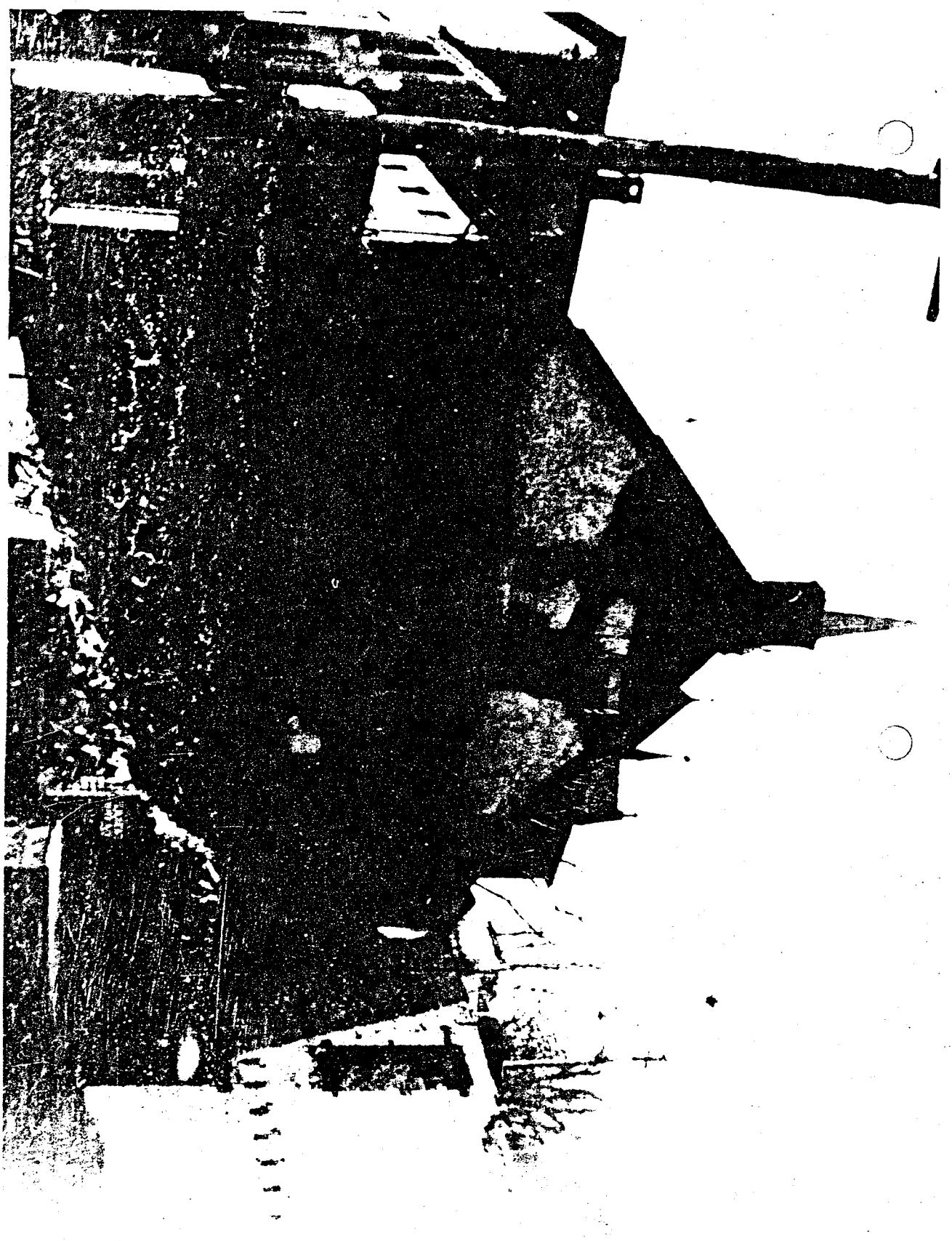
Demolition of the Brick House on Wager  
Lot No. 51, Corner of Shenandoah and High  
Street, 1919-1921.

Photo donated by Mrs. Kenneth Gromberg, Denis,  
Maryland, in 1958.

<sup>R</sup>  
Hapers Ferry NHP Neg. No. HF - 380.

This view showing the 2½ story brick house that had  
been erected on Wager Lot No. 51 by the Anderson brothers in  
1832 being demolished, was taken prior to 1921 and after 1917  
according to Mrs. Gromberg. The deeds <sup>however,</sup> indicate that  
April 30,  
that the photo was taken after 1919, when I. S. Glass  
purchased the property for \$ 1,800. Mr. Glass demolished  
the old house in order to <sup>make</sup> way for the construction of a  
gasoline station on that corner lot. In the center can be seen the  
northeast gable end wall of Bldg. 38, which consisted of the  
southwest brick end wall of the house on Lot. 51. Gerard B. Wager  
obtained the right for the owners of  
Lot 50 to build into that end wall in February 1839 and for that  
reason the owner of Lot 51 had to <sup>leave</sup> his southwest end wall standing  
in 1919-21. At the left can be seen a portion of the Shenandoah  
Street facade of Bldg. 38, then the three-story Bldg. 40 and finally,  
the four-story Bldg. No. 42, the latter <sup>being</sup> located on Wager Lot No. 48.

At the extreme right can be seen a small portion of  
Building No. 37, located on Wager Lot No. 52.



Photograph No. 6

"Flood Water Reach Second Story at  
Harpers Ferry, Md. [Sic- W. Va.] - 1936 Postcard.

From a postcard donated by Harold Peterson,  
NPS Historian, Washington Office, June 1958.

✓ Ferry National Historical Park Neg. No. HF - 281  
Harpers

This view ~~taken~~ from the junction of Potomac and  
Shenandoah Streets, looking west along Shenandoah Street.

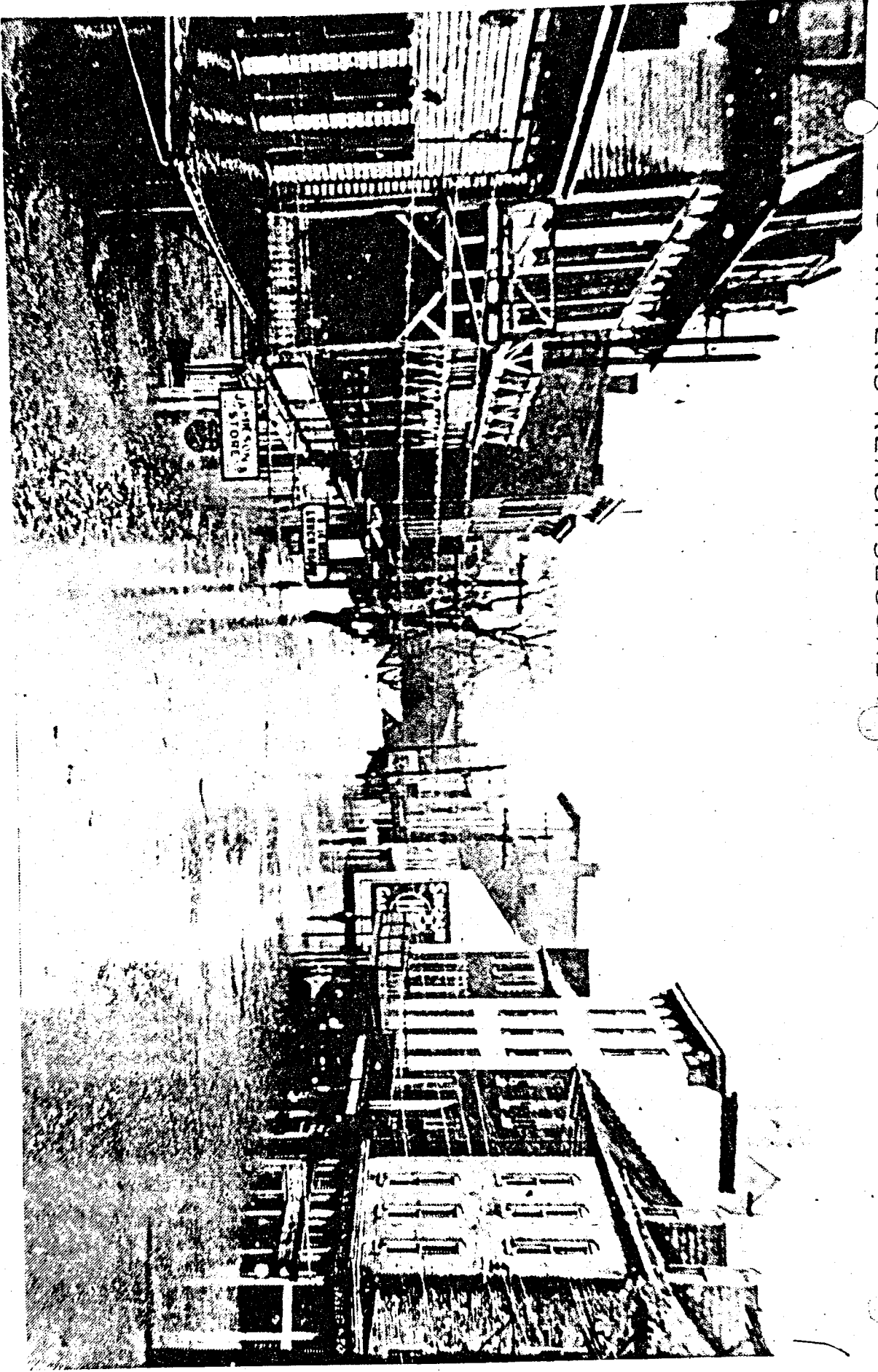
Bldgs. at right, along the north side of Shenandoah Street,  
from right to left: Bldg. 9, Bldg. 10- rebuilt after <sup>Civil</sup> war as  
3½ story structure, Bldg. No. 11, rebuilt after Civil War as  
four story building, and Bldg. No. 12 at corner of Shenandoah  
and High Streets. Then Sinclair Gasoline Station located  
on Wager Lot 51, with its sign painted on the northeast gable end  
wall of Bldg. No. 38, Bldg. 38, then ~~three-~~story rebuilt Bldg. 40,  
finally  
and the four story Bldg. No. 42, the later on Wager Lot 48 and  
erected about 1900.

On the south side of Shenandoah Street, at the left side of  
the photograph and reading from left to right. First, Bldg. No. 17  
then the frame Connor Hotel, next the three-story brick Bldg. No.  
24 and the ~~m~~ <sup>the</sup> three -story brick Bldg. 23. Bldgs. No. 17 to 25  
inclusive were all located on the Old Arsenal Tract, U.S. <sup>Shenandoah Street,</sup> Block A,  
Lots 1 to 7/ and all were erected after 1879.

the fact  
This view documents in dramatic fashion that the cellars and  
first stories of all buildings fronting on Shenandoah Street were  
submerged during the great Harpers Ferry flood of 1936.



FLOOD WATERS REACH SECOND STORY AT HARPERS FERRY, MD.



Photograph No. 7

Shenandoah Street facade of

Bldg. No. 38, 1955-56.

Photo by E. M. Dale, taken winter of  
1955-1956.

Harpers Ferry NHP Negative No. NHF- 446.

View of the front elevation of Bldg. 38  
prior to any alterations being made to the  
structure by the National Park Service.  
The brick end gable wall at the right stands  
on Wager Lot No. 51 and was erected in 1832.  
In 1844 this wall also became the end wall for  
Bldg. No 38. At the extreme left is a portion  
of Bldg. No. 40



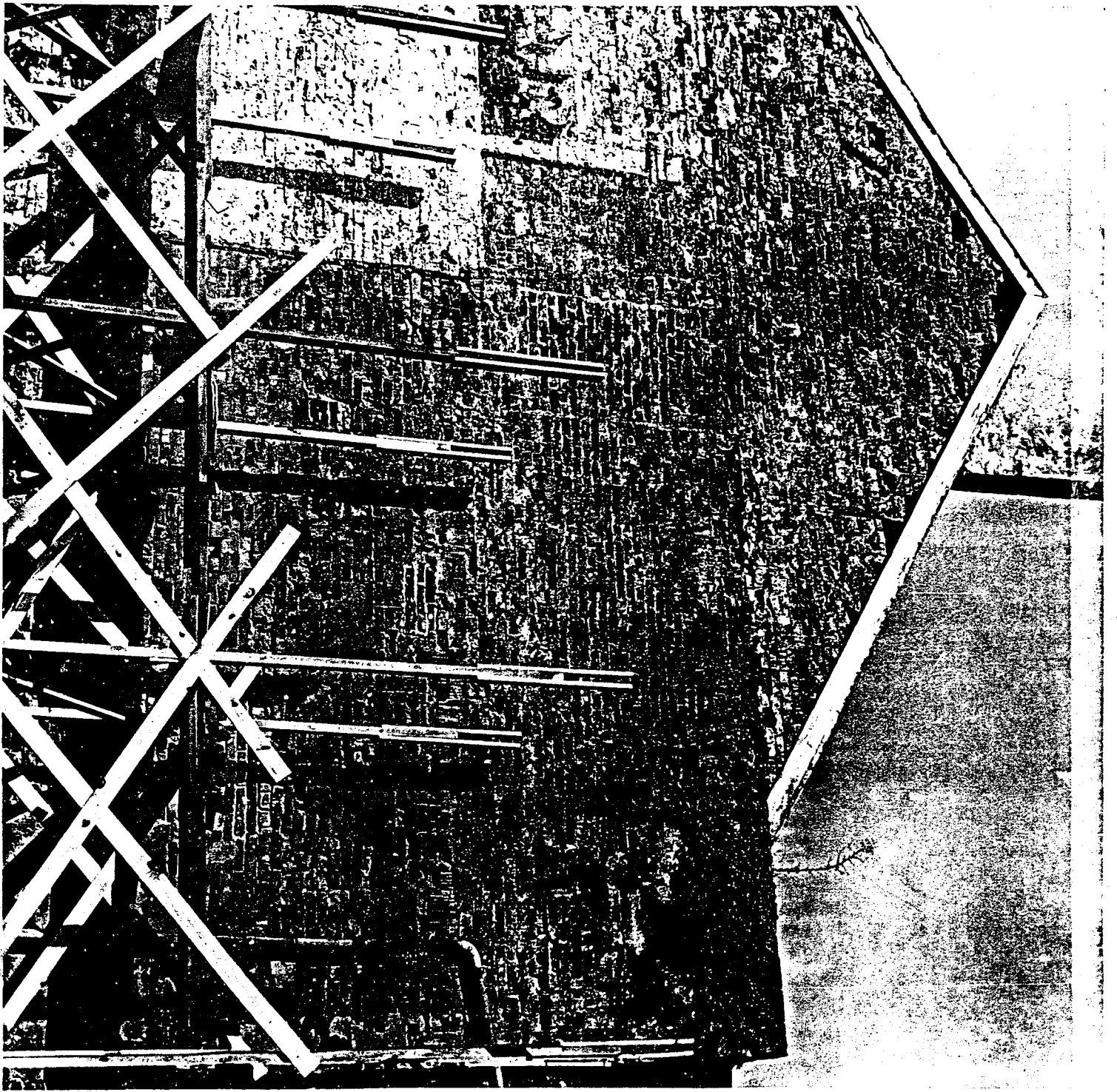
Photograph No. 8

Northeast Gable End Wall of Bldg. 38., 1956.

Photo by Architect Archie W. Franzen, taken in 1956.

NHP  
Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHF- 448  
National Park Service

This view shows stabilization work in progress on the brick northeast end wall. This wall was erected by William and Samuel B. Anderson in 1832 for the structure they built on Wager Lot 51. In 1844 <sup>the wall</sup> also became the common end wall for Bldg. No. 38, when it was constructed on Wager Lot No. 50.



Historical Maps and Plats

( six )

MAP NO. 1 - Drawer 150- . . . Sheet 1

"Plan of the Proposed Junction of the Canal at the Lower Falls of Shenandoah with the Public Canal at Harpers Ferry and the Necessary Locks for descending into the Potomack River. Surveyed & Levelled by N. King and L. Harbaugh, Feb. 1803 for the Public & Potomak Company." Sheet 1

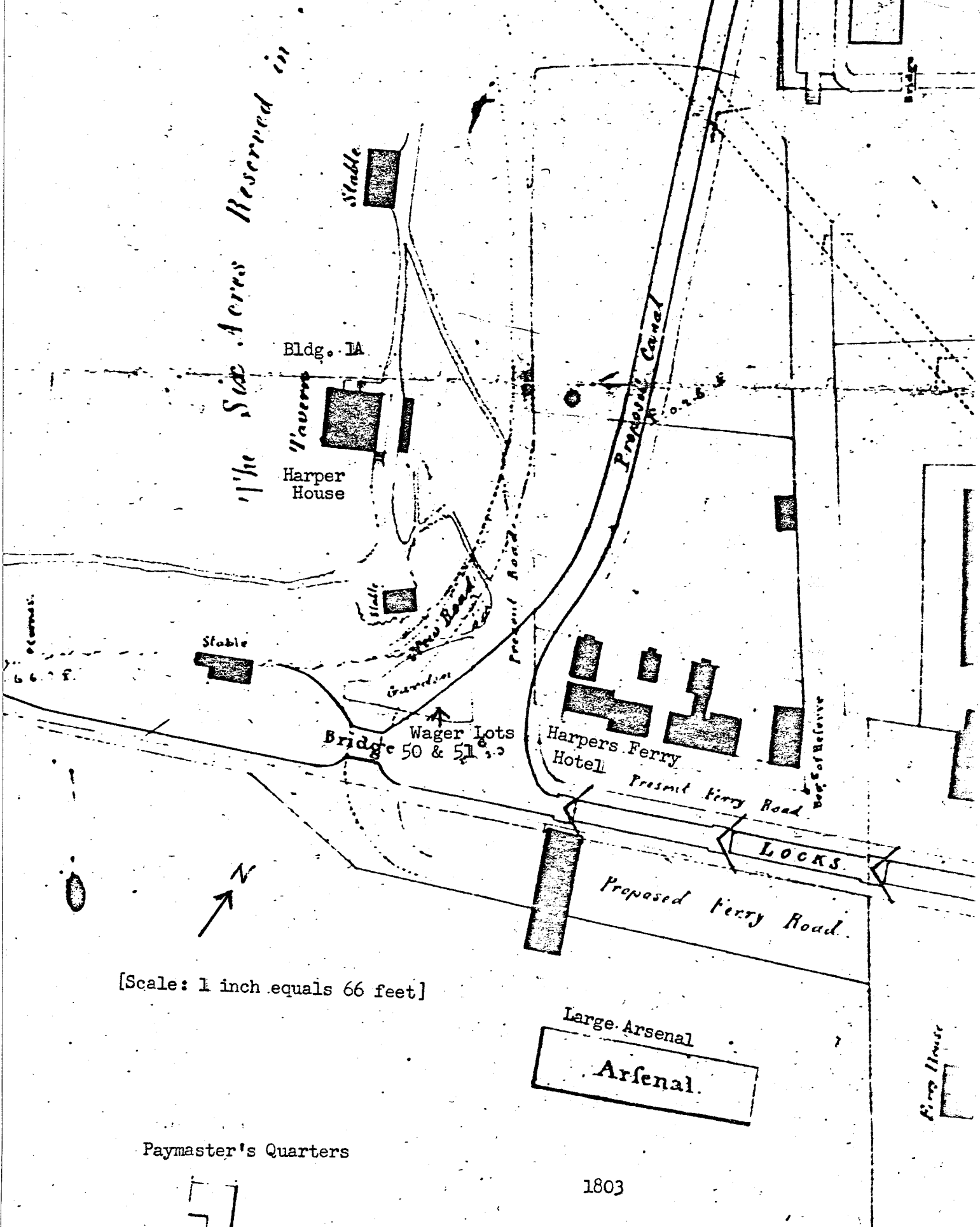
National Archives, Washington, D.C.- "Record Group 77- Office of the Chief of Engineers, Fortification File, drawer 150- two sheets.

Scale- four perches to one inch, for sheet 1 . . . . .

This map indicate that the area on the northwest corner of High and Shenandoah Streets, later known as Wager Lots No. 50 and 51, <sup>and</sup> including also the future site of Bldg. No. 38 on Lot 50, were being utilized as a garden in 1803.

Part of this 1803 Map has been reproduced as part of Harpers Ferry National Monument Master Plan as Drawing No. NM-HF- 3004.

*The Side Acres Reserved in*



[Scale: 1 inch equals 66 feet]

Paymaster's Quarters

57

1803



48

MAP No. 2

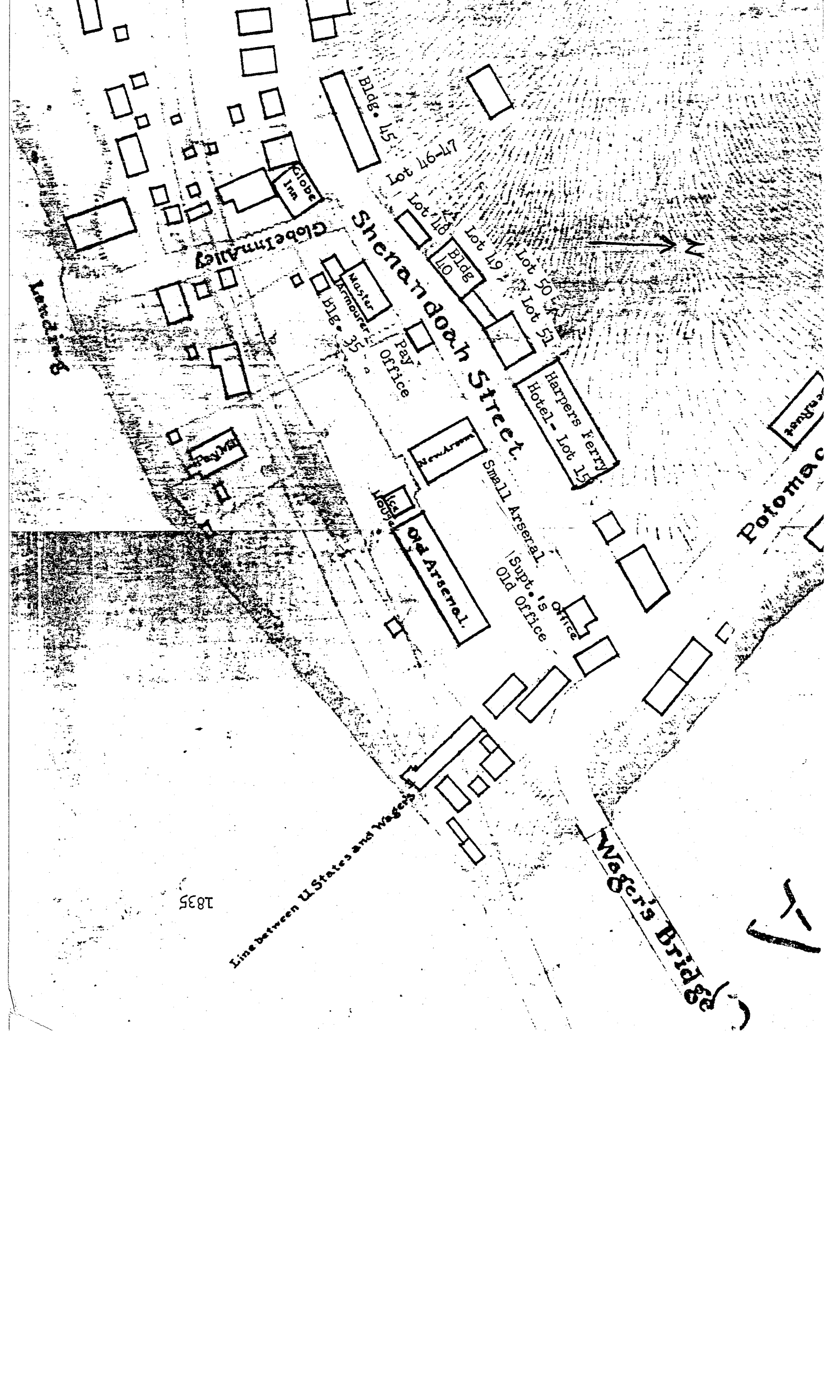
"Map of Harpers Ferry Shewing the location of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, Drawn by Lieut. White, Allen, and R. S. Smith, U.S. Army, under the direction of James Kearney, Lt. Col. and T. E. Map No. 2. Scale 100 feet to one inch. Approved by President Andrew H Jackson, on 27th January 1835."

Record Group 77- Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Fortification Map File, Drawer 150- sheet 82- part 2, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

This map has been reproduced as part of Harpers Ferry National Monument Master Plan as Drawing No. NM-HF-3002.

The approximate plan of the old stone stable standing on Lot 50 is shown on this map. The stone stable did not actually <sup>✓</sup>abut on the large brick structure shown on Lot 51, rather an alley about 8 feet wide ran between the two buildings. The old stone stable, erected after 1803 and before 1824, measured about 17 by 32 feet in size and was demolished in 1844 to make way for the construction of Bldg. No. 38. Note also the location of the "Pay Office", almost directly across the street from Lot 50. This was the office of the Paymaster of the U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry and held a large vault.

Many merchants renting stores in Bldgs. 38 and 40 often noted in their advertisements that they were located directly opposite or nearly opposite to the Pay Office. The Pay Office was finally removed from its location on the south side of Shenandoah Street in 1857, so the present Bldg. No. 36- a new house for the Master Armorer, could be erected at that site.



Yard

Globe Alley

Shenandoah Street

Potomac

Line between U.S. States and Wagers

Wagers Bridge

Bldg. 45

Lot 46-47

Lot 48

Lot 49

Lot 50

Lot 51

Globe Inn

Master Armorer Bldg. 35

Pay Office

New Arsenal

Old Arsenal

Small Arsenal

Supt.'s Office  
Old Office

Harpers Ferry Hotel - Lot 15

1835

17

MAP No. 3

Plat of the Wager Six Acre Reservation and the Three-fourth acre Ferry Lot Reservation , showing the subdivision of this land of John Wager, Jr. among his three heirs, October 10, 1835. Original drawing by James M. Brown, S. G. C. Scale: <sup>One</sup> inch equals 60 feet. Original plat in Deed <sup>Book</sup> No. 29, at Page 140, Jefferson County Courthouse, Charles Town, W. Va.

Tracing made by Prof. Henry Edwards from original during summer of 1955. Plat retraced from original by Architect Archie W. Franzen, July 11, 1957 and numbered as Harpers Ferry National Monument Master Plan Drawing No. NM- HF 3076.

When Gerard Bond Wager inherited Wager Lot No. 50 on October 10, 1835, an old stone stable stood on this Lot.

In March 1844, Wager sold Lot 50, slightly enlarged on the the northeast side by a narrow strip of land that he purchased in 1839 from Noah H. Swayne, the owner of Lot 51, to Edward Tearney, Peter Lytle, and Patrick Kelly. These three men erected Bldg. No. 38 as a duplex 2½ story brick mercantile and residential structure in 1844.

Lot 50 's 1835 frontage of 37 feet four inches on the north side of Shenandoah Street was increased to 40 feet 2 inches by the 1839 addition.

POTOMAC RIVER

POTOMAC RIVER

SHENANDOAH RIVER

SHENANDOAH RIVER

RAIL ROAD

RAIL ROAD

ARSENAL YARD

24th STREET

38th STREET

Bldgs. 41-43

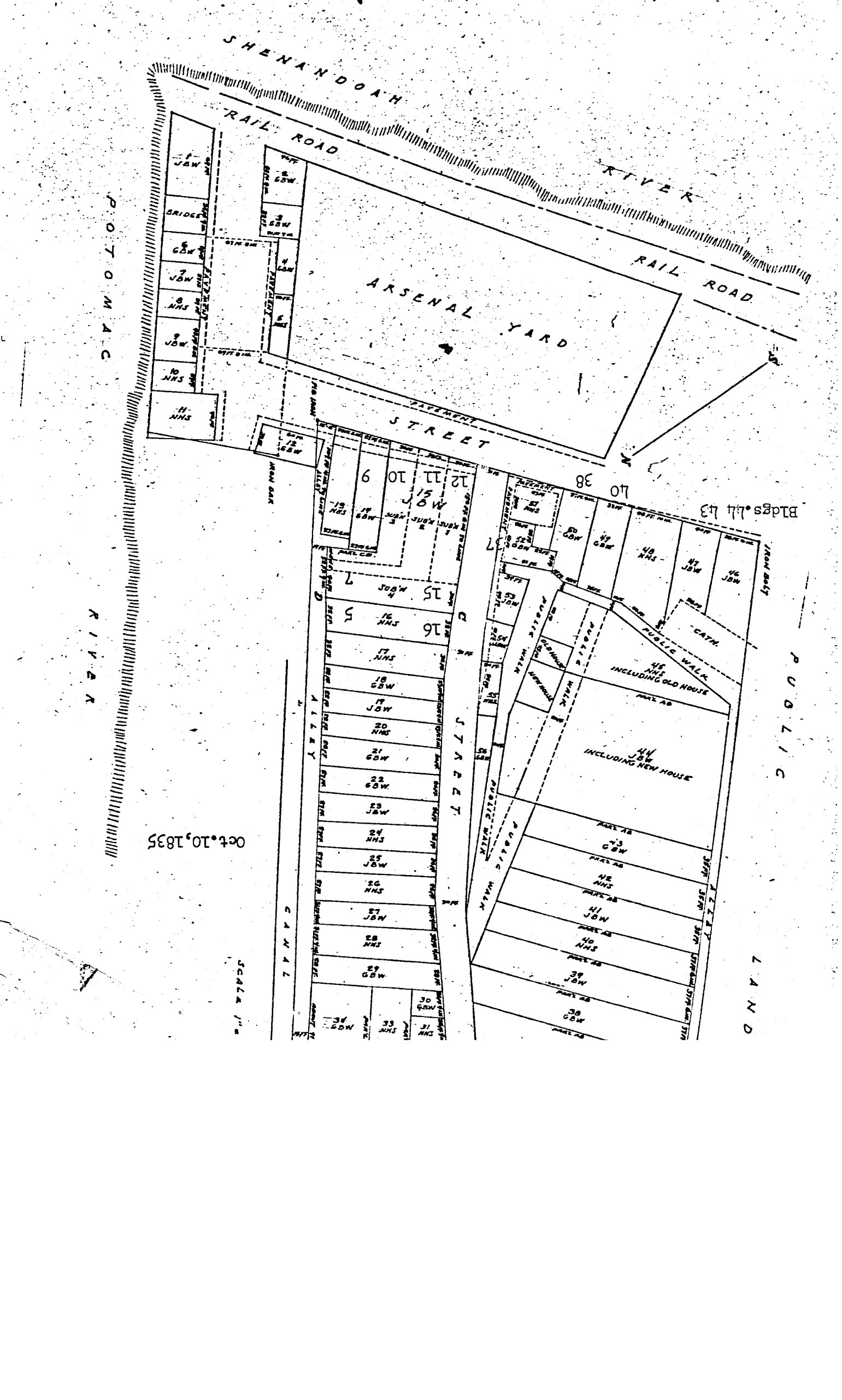
- 1 JGW
- 2 GSW
- 3 GSW
- 4 JGW
- 5 JGW
- 6 NNS
- 7 NNS
- 8 JGW
- 9 JGW
- 10 NNS
- 11 NNS
- 12 JGW
- 13 JGW
- 14 JGW
- 15 JGW
- 16 NNS
- 17 NNS
- 18 GSW
- 19 JGW
- 20 NNS
- 21 GSW
- 22 GSW
- 23 JGW
- 24 NNS
- 25 JGW
- 26 NNS
- 27 JGW
- 28 NNS
- 29 GSW
- 30 GSW
- 31 NNS
- 32 GSW

- 33 GSW
- 34 GSW
- 35 GSW
- 36 JGW
- 37 JGW
- 38 NNS
- 39 JGW
- 40 NNS
- 41 JGW
- 42 NNS
- 43 GSW
- 44 JGW INCLUDING NEW HOUSE
- 45 NNS INCLUDING OLD HOUSE
- 46 JGW
- 47 JGW
- 48 NNS
- 49 GSW
- 50 GSW

Oct. 10, 1835

SCALE 1/4"

PUBLIC LAND



Map No. 4:

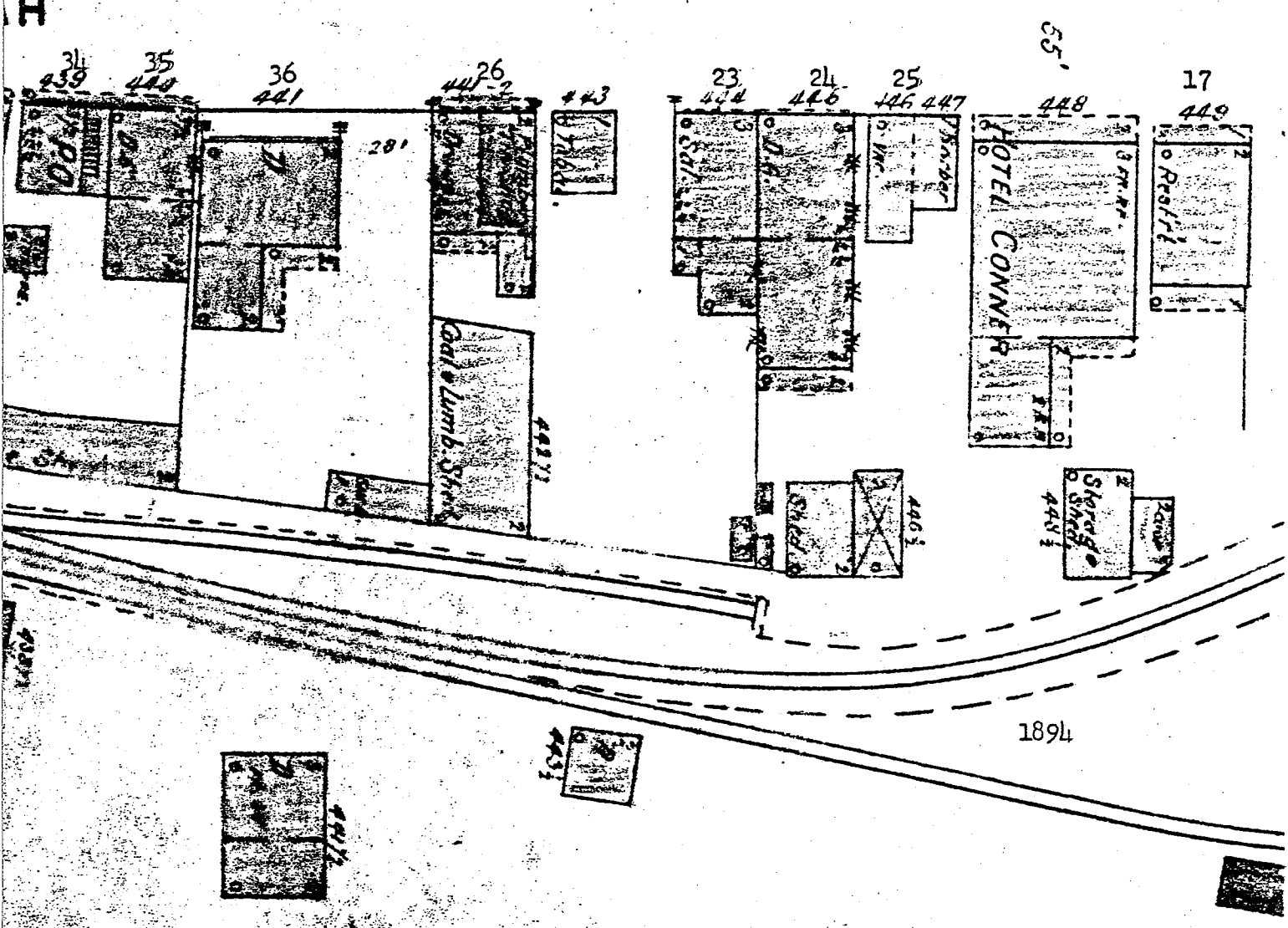
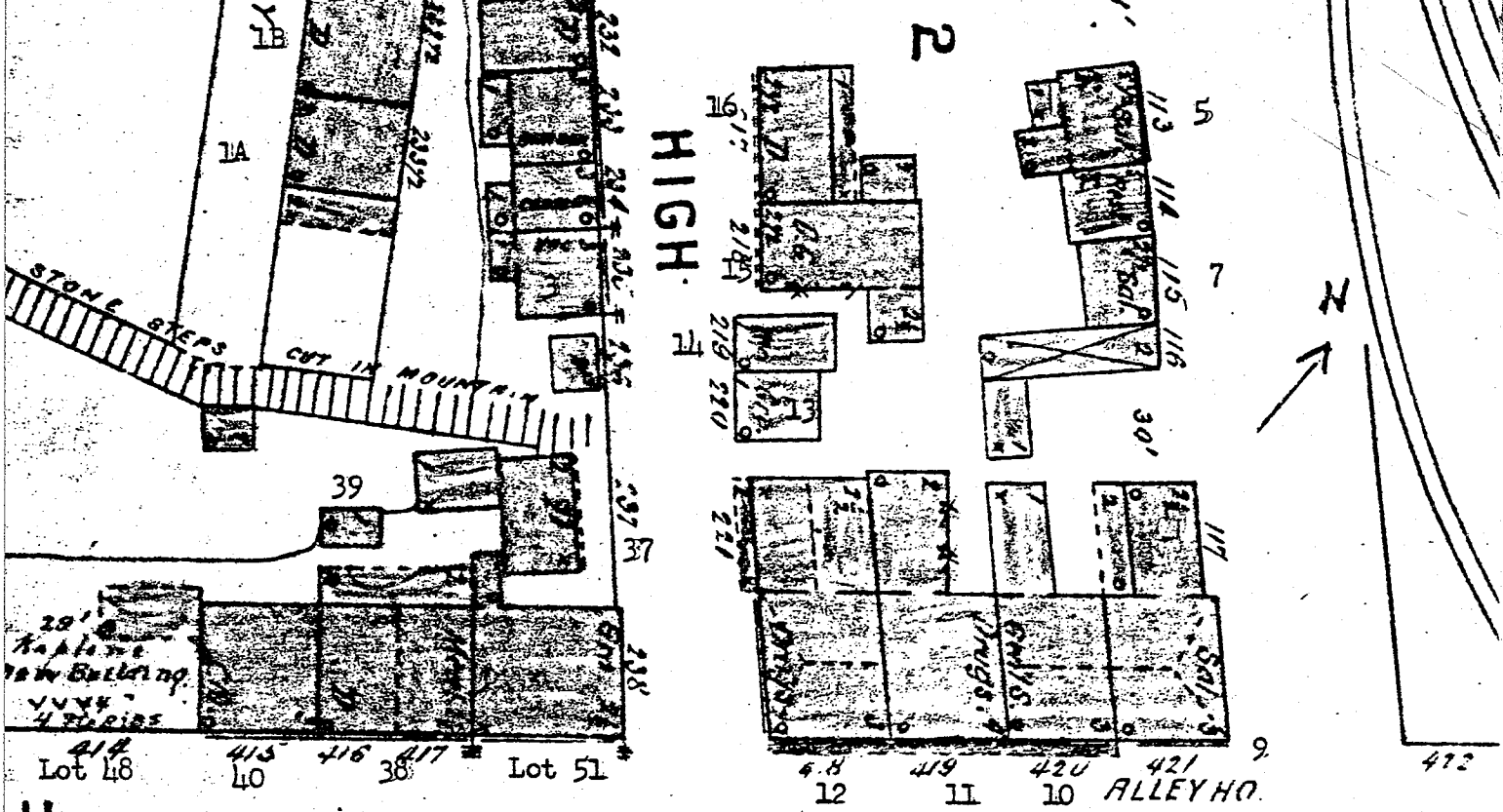
" The Sanborn-Perris Map of Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia, November, 1894." Scale: 50 feet to one inch .

edition of this set of  
Original insurance maps in Map Collections of  
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park , 1955 - 1973.

At some undetermined date after 1973 the sections of the maps showing the lower town of Harpers Ferry have been removed from the file case with no notice of borrowing.

( This copy made from an xerox of the original ).

This map documents the fact that the southwest or left half of the first floor of Bldg. No. 38 served as a dwelling and the northeast or right half as a "meat" or butcher shop in 1894.

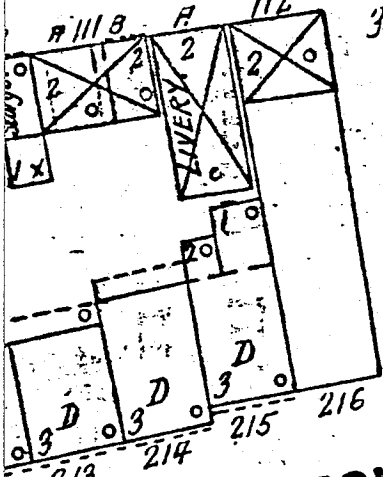


"Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry, W. Va.,  
September 1907. " Scale: 50 feet to one inch.

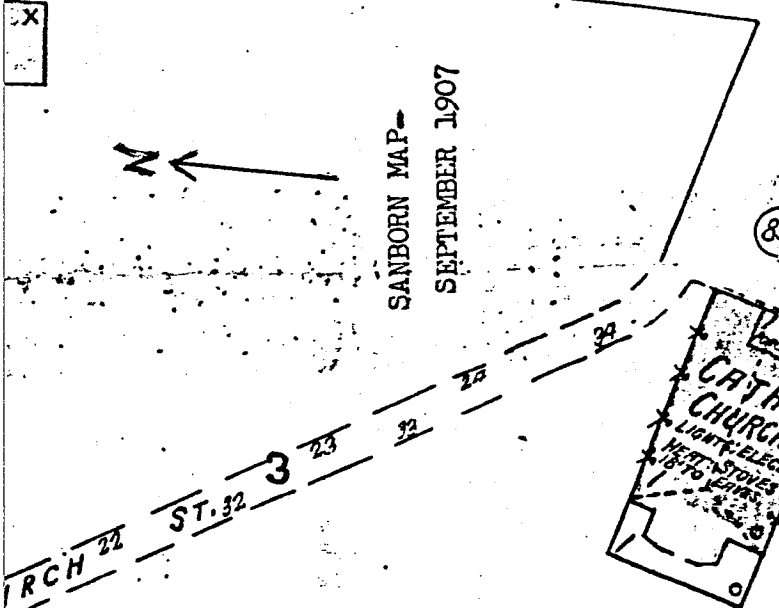
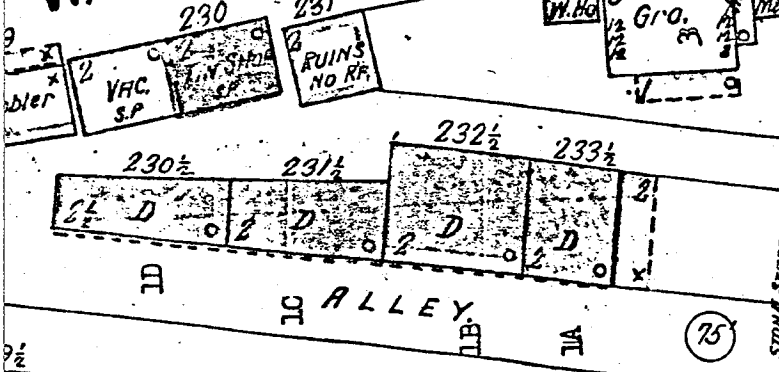
An original edition of these sets of insurance maps are in the Map Collections of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The map shows that the southwest or left half of the first floor of Bldg. No. 38 was being used as a dwelling and the northeast or right half being utilized as a restaurant in 1907.

TOMAC



WASHINGTON





MAP NO. 6

" B & O R.R. Main Line District

Shenandoah Division Main Line

PLAN SHOWING RIGHT OF WAY, BUILDING AND TRACKS  
HARPERS FERRY, W. Va.

Office of Dist. Engr. M. of W. Baltimore, Md.

February 19, 1913

Note Books C- 31 & 35

1 - 7 - 5 ."

Scale 1 inch equals 50 feet [ original scale ]

Part of Harpers Ferry National Monument

Master Plan- Drawing No. NM - HF 9003

This map indicates that the entire first floor of Bldg.  
No. 39 was apparently being used as a restaurant in 1913.

